

Telephone and Competition. Every community which has a telephone service is likely to be confronted by the question of granting a franchise to a rival company. Each case must be decided by the governing authorities, but every case will show the peculiarities of the telephone problem. The telephone is a natural monopoly, for it is to the advantage of every subscriber that all users of telephones should be on the same system with him. More than one system means that a subscriber must have more than one instrument, or be out of communication with part of the world of telephone-users. It is difficult, however, to adjust human nature to ideal mechanical conditions. Established companies, without rivals, lack the motive of competition to keep rates down and service good. Therefore some communities have welcomed new companies which promised better and cheaper service. Dual systems, like labor strikes, are on their face economic losses, yet it may be worth while to endure the temporary discomfort and loss in order to secure better conditions ultimately. The better may be on one system and the baker on another, yet low rates may bring two instruments within the previous cost of one, and may so increase the number of subscribers within call as to atone for the inconvenience. If finally one company absorbs the other, the community may have become so well established in low rates that the surviving company dare not raise them. On the other hand says the Youth's Companion, the effect of competing companies is sometimes merely to divide the telephone-users of a community without adding many to the total number, and if the companies then make an agreement to keep rates up, the community is worse off than before. In the strategic game which a community plays with public service companies, it is difficult to determine in the case of the telephone service how far the actual or threatened establishment of a rival company stimulates mechanical improvement and checks the natural tendency of a monopoly to extort. No community can settle the question without careful study.

Mr. Bryce Inco. The last time Mr. Bryce visited this country was two years ago last summer, when he landed in Boston. He is a very modest gentleman, and he prefers to travel incognito when he can conveniently do so. So it happened that on his last voyage hither neither his name nor that of Mrs. Bryce, who came with him, appeared on the passenger list, and his fellow voyagers did not suspect his identity until after several days out. Meanwhile Mr. Bryce had the pleasure of making his table companions all about this country and its institutions. And they gibbered his naive questions, never suspecting that they were talking with the author of "The American Commonwealth." Fancy their chagrin later on, remarks the Boston Herald, when they discovered by accident that they had been undertaking to enlighten an inquisitive foreigner who knew far more about their institutions than they did!

The inhabitants of an industrial town seeking to abandon it in a body—a strange event for modern times—is now to be witnessed in Spain. The town is that of Bejar, near Salamanca, whose people are using their utmost endeavors to have themselves distributed—men, women and children—among the South American republics. Bejar was once a flourishing town, with a reputation for its cloth fabrics. Fifty years ago the population numbered 22,000 people, but the place has gradually declined, and today contains no more than 3,000 souls, who seek to flee from it as fast as they can.

Count Prosper d'Epinois, who has been decorated in Paris by the British ambassador with the Victorian Order, is in the odd position of being a British subject and a Frenchman at the same time. He was born in the island of Mauritius 65 years ago. The island, of course, is inhabited by a French-speaking population and once formed part of the territories of France. Both the count's parents being French, the count is regarded in France as a Frenchman, but, being born under the British flag, he is just as surely a British subject.

Having refused to remain away from the mission field for the full term of his furlough, Rev. Dr. Andrew Watson, who has been engaged in mission work 45 years, has sailed for Egypt. Dr. Watson is the father of Rev. Dr. Charles R. Watson, secretary of the board of foreign missions of the United Presbyterian church. The father has spent the greater part of his life in the Egyptian field, and as Dr. Charles Watson is the executive of this department, the father is employed by the son.

A Berlin scientist claims to have found a way whereby a head can be made to grow again on a human body after decapitation. If he comes to this country he will fill a long-felt want after every change of administration.

OUR LINCOLN LETTER

Gossip from the State Capital, Legislative and Otherwise

The anti-free pass bill agreed upon by the sub-committee comprising Senators Gould of Greeley and Gibson of Douglas and Representative Knowles of Dodge, follows closely the national act on the same subject and the bill introduced in the senate by King of Polk. It goes a little further and provides that attorneys employed by railroads shall not be entitled to passes unless they are actually employed and receive a salary of \$500 a year. The sub-committee has agreed upon the following bill to report to the joint committee:

Section 1. No railroad corporation owning or operating any line or lines of railroad in the state of Nebraska or any officer or agent of any such railroad corporation shall issue or give any free ticket, free pass or free transportation for passengers except to its bona fide employees and their families, its officers, surgeons, who are annually employed, attorneys who are actually employed and receiving a salary of not less than \$500 per year, ministers of religion, traveling secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations, inmates of hospitals, and charitable and eleemosynary institutions and persons exclusively engaged in charitable and eleemosynary work; to indigent, destitute and homeless persons and to such persons when transported by charitable societies or hospitals and the necessary agents employed in such transportation; to inmates of national homes or state homes for disabled volunteer soldiers and of soldiers' and sailors' homes, including those about to enter and those returning from such institutions; to necessary care takers of live stock, poultry, and fruit; to employees on sleeping cars, express and baggage cars, and to line-men of telegraph and telephone companies to railway mail employees, to newsboys on trains, baggage agents, persons injured in wreck, and physicians and nurses attending such persons.

Provided, further, that the provisions of this act shall not be construed to prohibit the interchange of passes for the officers and bona fide employees and their families of other railroad companies nor to prohibit any railroad corporation from carrying passengers free with the object of providing relief in cases of general epidemic, pestilence or calamitous visitation.

Sec. 2. Any railroad corporation violating any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and for each offense or conviction thereof shall pay a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000.

Senator Holbrook will this week introduce a bill into the senate to establish a state fire commission, similar in function to the fire marshals of some of the eastern states. It is said to be backed by a number of fire insurance companies. The bill makes the governor fire commissioner and allows him a chief deputy and two assistant deputies. The chief must reside in Lincoln and is to receive a salary of \$2,000 a year. The assistants are to receive salaries of \$1,500 each.

In accordance with the recommendations of the state bar association, Representative Tucker submitted a joint resolution for an amendment to the constitution to reorganize the state supreme court. The bill provides for a supreme court of seven members, one of whom is to be a chief justice. Instead of the senior member of the court serving as chief justice he is to be elected for the full term of twelve years. Each of the judges is to serve the same length of time.

A reciprocal demurrage in the opinion of Senator Holbrook of Dodge county would do away with the present objections to demurrage charges against shippers, and in accordance with his opinion he has introduced a bill applying the reciprocity theory to the unloading of freight cars. The bill allows a shipper forty-eight hours in which to unload each car consigned to him and provides that if the unloading is accomplished in less time the unused time shall be credited to him to offset delinquency in future unloadings.

The state board of educational lands and funds has authorized the purchase of another block of \$10,000 of bonds of the state of Mississippi to net the state of Nebraska 3.75 per cent interest.

The house finance committee has agreed to recommend an appropriation of \$75,000 for the state board of agriculture, if the money is to be expended at the discretion of the board.

The joint committee on railroads had busy time with their work. The committee met sooner than was expected and succeeded in agreeing on a two-cent fare bill to be introduced in the house by Harrison of Otoe, and made some changes in the railway commission bill and heard the argument of railroad attorneys and managers against a reciprocal demurrage bill.

The two-cent fare bill will merely change the word "three" in the present statute to "two" cents and provide that half-fare tickets shall be given to children under 12 years of age, the latter being a rule now in force on most of the railroads in Nebraska. The bill will be introduced as a committee bill by Harrison of Otoe, chairman of the house railroad committee.

When it came to the committee bill conferring power upon the railway commission, the joint committee succeeded in going through only about six sections of the proposed bill. The Aldrich bill has been followed in many particulars. The joint committee decided to give the commission a lump sum of \$5,000 a year for clerk hire instead of giving \$2,500 for one secretary and \$1,200 each for two clerks. It was also decided that instead of compelling the commission to inspect all railway bridges in the state twice each year, this duty is made merely optional.

The following provision is from Representative Cone's bill affecting weights: "It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation owning within the state goods or merchandise in original unbroken packages located within this state, to offer for sale any such 'original unbroken packages' unless such package shall have plainly printed or stamped thereon in the English language the full net weight or volume contained therein. Provided that the natural shrinkage in the course of handling such goods to the amount of 5 per cent of the net weight or volume thereon shall be exempt from the provisions of this act."

The claims committee of the house met at the Lindell hotel. Claims and deficiencies have been filed that at present do not aggregate as much as usual. Of the claims so far handed to the committee there is one by Engineer U. G. Sawyer for \$750 for injuries received while a public employe, the old claim of Mrs. Mary M. Home, for \$2,333.33 for salary as matron of the Kearney industrial school; by J. H. Mickey for \$191.83 for railroad fare paid while governor; for \$1,750 by the estate of John F. Cornell for expense incurred when his office was investigated while he was state auditor.

Members of the legislative committee which inspected the Soldiers' home at Grand Island entertain differences of opinion regarding the appropriation which this institution should have. The commandant has recommended that \$75,000 be appropriated for permanent improvements, and some members of the committee believe such a large sum is unnecessary, inasmuch as the maximum of the number of old soldiers who will become members of the home is reached.

As a compromise between conflicting interests on the compulsory education bill which he introduced into the senate early in the session Senator Thomas has a new measure which he may offer as a substitute for S. F. 53. The new measure is not radically different from the old one, but it is not quite so rigorous. It provides that every child between 7 and 15 shall be required to go to school not less than two-thirds of the entire school year in his district or in any case not less than twelve weeks during the year.

The house indefinitely postponed the bill by Raper which abolished the present optional death penalty. The bill was recommended for passage on a previous day without discussion and some of the members said they were not aware of the scope of the bill at the time. Carlin of Rock moved to reconsider and after a long debate the bill was killed. The house killed the bill by E. W. Brown of Lancaster providing that judges of the supreme, district and county courts are ineligible to election to office save judicial positions.

Before a packed gallery and a crowd of lobby the senate laid the county option bill to rest by the decisive vote of twenty to eleven.

Though not much has yet been done in the legislature, the majority say all party pledges will be fulfilled before the close of the session.

The house got busy on the 5th and passed eighteen bills. Most of them, however, were of local interest.

The house passed Mr. Cone's bill providing that railroads shall not employ boys under 21 years of age as night telegraph operators or tower-men. Another of the measures declared that he believed many wrecks are caused because young and inexperienced men help in handling trains.

BUYING A WAGON

How Mr. Brown Got the Worst of Two Bargains.

TRIED MAIL-ORDER METHODS

Thought He Was Saving Money, But Will Not Try the Same Thing a Second Time—Buying at Home Pays.

(Copyrighted, 1916, by Alfred C. Clark)

Mr. Brown, a farmer living in Boone county, Mo., decided to buy a spring wagon. The next time he was in town he went to the local dealer and saw what he had in stock. One wagon that suited him was offered to him at \$75. He thought he would take it, but before ordering he looked over a mail order vehicle catalogue. Here he saw described a wagon which, as far as description went, was the same as the one he saw in the dealer's store room. In fact, the description was written in such a convincing manner and all of the good points of the mail order vehicle were brought out so thoroughly that it appeared to be superior to the other one. And the price was only \$67.45. Mr. Brown thought of the saving of \$7.55 which represented several days of hard work. The more he thought about it the more he wanted to save that amount and in the end the Chicago mail order concern got his check.

When the wagon finally arrived with a freight bill of \$4.50, he rode to town with his son and spent half a day putting it together. He had to buy a screw driver and some oil and sand paper and a few bolts to replace some that had been lost in shipment.



Like the terrible devil fish the catalogue house is death to everything that gets within its grasp. Once its death-dealing tentacles have wound around your community, there is no escape. Are you assisting the greedy monster by sending your dollar to the mail order house.

All of these cost him 75 cents. He was not experienced at putting spring wagons together and he didn't do a very good job of it, for one of the seats refused to sit in the right place and he had to get a local blacksmith to help him fix it. This cost him another half dollar and delayed him so much that he and the boy had to go to the hotel for their dinners; an additional expense of 70 cents. So before he got his team hitched to the wagon it cost him \$73.90, allowing him a saving of \$1.10, which was very stingy pay for the time he had lost. Of the amount he spent for the wagon, only \$1.95 remained in Boone county. The railroads and the mail order house got the rest of it.

In the meantime his neighbor, Mr. Jones, bought the \$75 wagon from the local dealer, who made a profit of \$10 on the sale. As the vehicle was already assembled and there were no extra parts or tools to buy, the amount paid for the wagon represented all of the cost to Mr. Jones. The dealer spent the \$16 profit for a new sign on his building; the sign painter hired a carpenter to repair the roof on his house; the carpenter paid his bill at the butcher's and the butcher bought a hog from Mr. Jones. And so the \$16 kept going in the county until a farmer with the mail order habit got hold of it. He sent it to Chicago and it never came back.

But this wasn't the last of the two purchases. A few weeks after the two wagons were bought, Mr. Brown's boy and Mr. Jones' boy, driving the new vehicles, met on the country road. They drove too close to each other and a smash-up resulted. The weakest part of each wagon gave way; an axle on the mail order product was broken and a doubletree on the other was smashed. Both breaks were plainly because of defective construction. Mr. Jones took his broken doubletree to town the next day and the dealer gave him a new one. Mr. Brown attempted to explain to the Chicago firm that the axle would not have broken if it had not been defective and requested this explanation with a request for a new part, but after several weeks of correspondence with the piece as far away as at the beginning, he gave it up and bought the axle himself. This experience told Mr. Brown why he should trade with home merchants instead of patronizing the mail order houses.

In Boone county and in every other county there are many who read thousands of dollars out of the county every year, without ever considering the fact that they are making their community poorer, reducing the per capita of wealth, and dwarfing local business, only to enrich a concern already rich enough to buy several counties. An extra thousand dollars in any community will mean, during the year, many thousands of dollars in business transacted and increased income for practically every one in the community. Often the amount sent to the mail order houses is more than enough to turn the balance the other way and business depression exists where prosperity would prevail under normal conditions. Even if the country purchaser was able to save a snug sum by ordering his supplies from a

mail order house, the loss to the community would be greater than the gain for himself. It is needless to point out that as the shipping of the mail order business from any community increases the amount of loss to the community also increases, until it is only a question of time until the individual loss caused by the general depression of business will exceed the individual saving.

In fact if everyone in the community bought from the mail order houses, local markets would disappear and the farmer would be compelled to sell as well as buy from the catalogue concerns. The rural districts would be devoid of business activity while the wealth of the country would be centered in one or two points. Buying by mail may be attractive, but the most pronounced mail order man should look with apprehension on any condition whereby he would be compelled to depend on the mail order man for a market for his products.

But the idea of saving an individual purchase is, to a great extent, a fallacy. In spite of his boasted ability to buy in large quantities, he is not able to buy for much less than the country merchant. Competition in all manufactured products is too keen for that. And the small saving he is able to make by large purchases is more than offset by his larger expenses. These expenses must come out of the purchaser so the mail order man is compelled to make a larger profit than the local dealer. It costs him more to market his goods. He must maintain a large and expensive office force and he must advertise. As an example of what the mail order man expects to make out of his customers, a letter written by a prominent mail order man might be quoted. Writing to your publication cost us 17 cents and inquiry and we made sales at a cost of only 56 cents each for advertising.

Of Interest to Women. Every woman naturally should be healthy and strong, but a great many women, unfortunately, are not, owing to the unnatural condition of the lives we lead. Headache, backache and a general tired condition are prevalent amongst the women of to-day, and to relieve these conditions women rush to the druggists for a bottle of some preparation supposed to be particularly for them, and containing—nobody knows what. If they would just get a box of Brandreth's Pills, and take them regularly every night for a time, all their trouble would disappear, as these pills regulate the organs of the feminine system. The same does always have the same effect, no matter how long they are used.

Brandreth's pills have been in use for over a century, and are for sale everywhere, plain or sugar-coated.

Henry Clay and Low Wallace. "Mr. Clay was a personality once seen never to be forgotten. Tall, slender, graceful, he had besides the air majestic which kings affect, something of the appearance of a deity. Throughout Mr. Clay's performance my eyes scarcely left his countenance, which, as he proceeded, sank from sight until, by the familiar optical illusion, nothing of it remained but the mouth, and that kept enlarging and widening until it seemed an elastic link holding the ears together. Indeed, at this late writing, my own distinct recollection of the man and his speech is the mouth and its capacity for infinite distension."—Autobiography of Low Wallace.

Laundry work at home would be much more satisfactory if the right starch were used. In order to get the desired stiffness, it is usually necessary to use so much starch that the beauty and fineness of the fabric is hidden behind a paste of varying thickness, which not only destroys the appearance, but also affects the wearing quality of the goods. This trouble can be entirely overcome by using Defiance Starch, as it can be applied much more thinly because of its great strength than other makes.

Great Merchant Born on Farm. Like many other monarchs of trade, William Whiteley, the London merchant who was murdered recently, was born on a farm. It was his boast that he stood ready to fill any order, no matter how unprecedented. A story is told of two army officers who went into his great London store and one of them asked for six elephants. They were forthcoming and the man who had bet they wouldn't be there paid, though it turned out that the winner had arranged with Whiteley in advance.

Sheer white goods, in fact, any fine wash goods when new, owe much of their attractiveness to the way they are laundered, this being done in a manner to enhance their textile beauty. Home laundering would be equally satisfactory if proper attention was given to starching, the first essential being good starch, which has sufficient strength to stiffen, without thickening the goods. Try Defiance Starch and you will be pleasantly surprised at the improved appearance of your work.

Let each endeavor to be of use to himself and others. This is not a precept or a counsel, but the utterance of life itself.—Goethe.

A tight man and a loose dog are equally dangerous.

To Domesticate a Cat. It is said that an unfailing remedy for a cat that will not accustom itself to a new home is to grease its feet thoroughly with butter and put it down the cellar. When it has licked its feet clean it will be thoroughly domesticated and will cause no further trouble by running away.

Marriage Days in Italy. In Italy Sunday is usually selected for the marriage of those persons who have never been married before. Widows, however, in accordance with an old custom, usually choose Saturday.

A Big Bargain for 12 Cents Postpaid.

The year of 1919 was one of prodigious activity on our part. Never before did we have such a large stock of such enormous yield. Now we wish to gain 20,000 new customers this year and hence offer for the postpaid:

- 100 Garden City Best..... \$1.00
100 Highest Hops Catalog..... \$1.00
100 Best of the Best Catalog..... \$1.00
100 La Crosse Market Letters..... \$1.00
100 10 Day Bulletin..... \$1.00
100 Best of the Best..... \$1.00
100 1000 Choice Tomatoes..... \$1.00
100 1000 Choice Tomatoes..... \$1.00
100 1000 Choice Tomatoes..... \$1.00
Total..... \$10.00
All for \$2.00 postpaid in order to introduce our warranted seeds, and if you will send us we will add one package of Best of the Best Cauliflower, together with our research plant, nursery stock, vegetable and farm seed and tool catalog. This catalog is mailed free to all intending purchasers. Write to-day to John A. Salzer Seed Co., Box W, La Crosse, Wis.

Saved by a Scent. A boy was chasing himself by watching the birds that were flying around him. At length a beautiful bobolink perched on a rough bough of an apple tree near by.

The boy picked up a stone, and got ready to throw it at the bird. The bird's throat swelled, and forth came the song: "A-link, a-link, a-link, bobolink, bobolink, a-no-sweet, a-no-sweet, I know it, I know it, a-link, a-link; don't throw it, throw it, throw it." And the boy did not throw the stone, but dropped it on the ground.

"Why didn't you stone him, my boy? You might have killed him and carried him home."

The little fellow looked up and replied, "Couldn't 'cuse he sang so."—Fack.

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TO OBTAIN A GOLD OR SILVER RING

Write for catalogue and circular No. 2, N. W. Hyde & Fur Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

Don't be too sure of the man who boasts of being sure of himself.

Trappers' Supplies Sold Cheap. Write for catalogue and circular No. 2, N. W. Hyde & Fur Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

It's a waste of time to cut the acquaintance of a man who is inattentive.

Defiance Starch is the latest invention in that line and an improvement on all other makes; it is more economical, does better work, takes less time. Get it from any grocer.

Some valuable furnishings were sold at Sotheby's auction rooms (London) recently. A Charles II. powder hurling sword for \$50, and an Oliver Cromwell hurling in copper for \$60.

By following the directions, which are plainly printed on each package of Defiance Starch, Men's Collars and Cuffs can be made just as stiff as desired, with either glass or domestic finish. Try it, 16 oz. for 10c, sold by all good grocers.

Also Given Away Libraries. James J. H. Gregory of Marblehead, Mass., is a rival of Andrew Carnegie in the giving away of libraries. He has been doing this for years. His libraries are smaller than Carnegie's gifts and are given to small communities, to ministers and educators who cannot afford to purchase them.

In a Pinch, Use ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE. A powder. It cures painful, smarting, nervous feet and ingrowing nails. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Makes new shoes easy. A certain cure for sweating feet. Sold by all druggists, 25c. Trial package, FREE. Address A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Handy. Young Foot (to creditor who presents a bill—Oh, how good of you! I was looking everywhere for a piece of paper upon which to write a wonderful thought which has just come to me, and you drop down like an angel from heaven!)

\$100 Reward, \$100. The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the system, thereby destroying the cause of the disease, and restoring strength by building up the constitution and enabling nature to do its work. The preparation is sold by all druggists for any case that it fails to cure. Send for literature. Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold also by Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Connecticut's Bad Record. Connecticut is usually regarded as a safe and pleasant place to live in, and yet it had 43 murders in 1906, where Maine had only two. To be sure, Connecticut has more people than Maine, but not so very many more: it has fewer than 1,000,000, while Maine has 725,000. It is fair to state that it was an unusually bad year for the old Nutmeg state in this respect, as its 43 murders are more than it ever had before in a single year, and 17 more than the annual average for the last decade.—Kennebec Journal.

MIX THIS AT HOME. Valuable Prescription Which Anyone Can Easily Prepare.

The following simple home-made mixture is said to readily relieve and overcome any form of Rheumatism by forcing the kidneys to filter from the blood and system all the uric acid and poisonous waste matter, relieving at once such symptoms as backache, weak kidneys and bladder and blood diseases.

Try it, as it doesn't cost much to make, and is said to be absolutely harmless to the stomach.

Get the following harmless ingredients from any good pharmacy: Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kargon, one ounce; Compound Syrup of Sarsaparilla, three ounces. Mix by shaking well in a bottle, and take a teaspoonful after each meal and again at bedtime.

This simple mixture is said to give prompt relief, and there are very few cases of Rheumatism and Kidney troubles it will fail to cure permanently.

These are all harmless, every-day drugs, and your druggist should keep them in the prescription department; if not, have him order them from the wholesale drug houses for you, rather than fail to use this, if you are afflicted.

We make nothing; we only form and discover what is already there, but which without our assistance cannot release itself from shapeless chaos.—Aeschylus.

Advertisement for K.G. BAKING POWDER. Those who believe in quality use K.G. BAKING POWDER. 25 ounces for 25 cents. Made from pure, carefully tested materials. Makes all baking healthful. Why pay more for inferior powders? JACQUES MFG. CO., Chicago.