

THANKS FOR SMALL FAVORS

A Trifling Involuntary Concession from the Telephone Monopoly.

DETAILS OF THE EXPIRING PATENT

The Trunk of the System Public Property, But All Branches Secure from Trespass—The Invention and the Inventor.

The second of the telephone patents granted Alexander Graham Bell expires on Tuesday, the 20th inst. The patent is officially described as follows: "The combination, with an electro-magnet, of a plate of iron or steel or other material capable of inductive action, which can be thrown into vibration by the movement of surrounding air or by the attraction of a magnet. The formation in an electric telephone of a magnet with a coil upon the end or ends of the magnet nearest the plate. In combination with an electric telephone the employing of a speaking or hearing tube for conveying sound, to or from the telephone."

Numerous important improvements on the original telephone are protected by subsequent patents so that no immediate relief from the telephone monopoly is expected. The Bell company is reasonably secure for many years to come, and expectations of reduced tolls have little foundation to rest on.

In one way the expiration of the Bell patents will prove an advantage to the people. They can buy the instruments then, a thing which they have never been able to do in the past. They can establish little circuits of their own. A man may have a telephone line from his house to his office, or from his place of business to the place of business of that man with whom he most frequently trades. Towns and small cities may even have telephone exchanges in a small way, with from two to 100 subscribers, and all at the smallest expense. But they will not be able to connect with any general city system without coming in under exactly the same rules which obtain now, and paying tribute as they have in the past.

Success Attending the Bell. It is an interesting story—the story of the telephone monopoly. In the first place, Prof. Bell secured March 7, 1876, a patent on his telephone apparatus called the magneto system, which, while providing specifically for a transmitter, broadly covered any method whatever by which articulate sounds could be conveyed by means of electricity. No one at that time fancied how extensive the competition among inventors would become. So rare a thing as Prof. Bell's device seemed deserving of all he had asked. Perhaps ten years later a patent so extensive in its clauses would not have been granted to any inventor. But that was the beginning of the great battle of inventors, and the first man in the field secured almost anything he asked.

It was not the beginning of the work of transmitting sound over wire. Harmonious sounds were easily managed before that. But to find just that delicate instrument which would respond to the challenge of each articulate sound, take it up and carry it unchanged over miles of distance, to secure that adjustment which would not only convey a series of words audibly from the speaker to the hearer, but would ever transmit that quality which enabled you to recognize the very voice of your friend—that was a different matter. Yet when the inventors learned the way, and which harmonious sounds could travel they had the key to the gates of articulate speech.

Of course there was never a dispute as to the Bell origin of the transmitter. And the patent under which it was granted was so broad that they might almost have relied on that to protect them from any rivals in the future. But the magneto transmitter was not a success. Words could be sent even over miles of wire if all conditions were favorable. But words and wind and countless troubles jarred on the lines at any small provocation and the magneto was not found all that was desired in commercial work.

Quick on the heels of that first patent came a troop of other inventors. And while their cases were pending, the Bell company, recognizing the inefficiency of its receiving devices, asked for patents on structural plans, which would make the magneto all they hoped for. It will be observed this application for a subsidiary patent, the inventor confessed their absence in the original blanket patent. And when the race was nearly even and the inventors were securing rights on devices, the Bell attacked them in the courts, relying on its original generous charter, but alleging an infringement of later acquired rights. To the rival inventors replied that the Bell was unduly protected; that its first patent covered all its later appliances; that it had no right to attack both the original and subsequent patents on the same device.

Why Edison Was Defeated. And those suits hung on for years. The Edison application was first encountered in the patent office by the Bell, and the latter company insisted what are the interference proceedings to determine which of the two had prior rights. The Edison was backed up by the Western Union telegraph company. After a few years the courts sustained the Bell patents and Edison then allowed a decree to be entered without opposition in favor of the instrument called the Berliner, owned and made by the Bell. This controversy had progressed so long that when the decree was finally entered the Berliner patents took a life which was valuable. But if the Edison patents had been then upheld they would have run to 1888. Good patent lawyers believe the reason the Edison was defeated at that time was because public policy would be best served thereby. The Berliner method, which the Edison attacked, could only run to 1894. The Edison success would have inflicted a monopoly half a generation beyond that time.

The Brown Telephone company, which of late years has been the Bell's most vigorous antagonist, took up the old magneto device, which has been free since the expiration of the Bell patent in March last, and equipped it with a device which makes it successful for all manner of long distance uses. It has been tried and found successful over thousands of miles of an actual line in New York, but it does not infringe the battery rights acquired under the later patents.

These rights are now in litigation in a Massachusetts court. Judge R. S. Taylor of Fort Wayne, Ind., government counsel in the case, was seen yesterday, and he talked freely about the telephone case. The claim under which the Berliner method is attacked in Massachusetts is that the patent was secured by "the Bell company," and that it is successful, and the patent is decided, and then any man or company may build and sell any sort of telephone instrument which embraces the battery principle employed in the Berliner method. But if the Bell company, which owns the Berliner patents, is successful no new instruments of a similar nature can be in use for many years, because the Berliner is the first invention of the battery telephone, and the claims of his patent are broad enough to cover any device of this character, though the issuance of the patent was so long delayed through the contests of other inventors.

Will Continue to Note. There are about eight other patents on auxiliary devices. These are for switches, calling circuits, signals and all that, which are broadly claimed by the Bell company or the subsidiary companies in which the Bell holds a controlling interest. And these patents must be declared invalid or avoided by different devices in order to successfully operate even a telephone which is put into operation in this direction the public must inevitably turn to the Brown patents, which utilize the old magneto, with receiving facilities of their own.

But in a large way the reign of the telephone monopoly is by no means affected and will not be for years. The hold the Bell company has is almost as strong now as before the expiration of the two fundamental patents—that for transmission and that for receiving. In the latter case, to operate a great exchange, the immense switch board is a positive necessity. It is the ability to bring 500 or 1,000 subscribers together, so that any one can instantly be put into communication with any other one, which makes the Bell so powerful. And in the perfection

HANDS THAT RAKE THE POT

A Collection of Poker Etchings Borrowed from a Professional.

DRAWS THAT TAKE ONE'S BREATH

And Sequester the Pot at the Same Time—A Lonesome Ace That Found Its Fellows—Flashes, Fours and Pairs.

"Billy" Hart, the noted poker shark, drifted into a restaurant in San Francisco the other evening in San Francisco when some one told him that in a local card-room a straight flush was held in each of two games simultaneously in progress. Mr. Hart proceeded to tell of some extraordinary money, the money he drew down within a few years. Perhaps in three to five years the Bell may be compelled, by a growing small competition, to reduce its rates to one-half of what they are now. And if to these causes be added the proved success of the Brown system the reduction may come even quicker. But the greatest danger to the Bell monopoly is the fact that there are fortunes still in sight for its stockholders, and no expiration of two or three patents can be expected to end it. Besides, even if every patent in the possession were free to the public tomorrow, and there were no legal reasons why new manufacturers could not make and rent or sell switchboards and all other appliances, the fact remains that the Bell plant is established. Its machinery is in successful and approved operation. No company with twice its capital and all its appliances could hope to compete with it successfully until in the passage of time individual succession from its patronage would gradually weaken and war it.

We could not improve the quality if we paid double the price. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is the best salve that experience can produce, or that money can buy.

WISHES

I asked a little child one day: "A child intent on boys' play, My little one, pray and tell me, Your dearest wish, what may it be?" The little one thought for awhile, Then answered, with a wistful smile: "The thing that I wish most of all is to be big, like you, and tall."

I asked a maiden, sweet and fair, Of dreary eyes and wavy hair: "Would you, dear maid, pray and tell me, That kindly fate should bring to you?" With timid eyes and downcast eyes And blushes deep and gentle sighs, Her answer came: "All else above, 'Tid wish some faithful heart to love."

I asked a mother, tried and true, With babe asleep upon her breast: "Oh, mother, fond and proud and fair, What is the fondest prayer you pray?" She raised her calm and peaceful eyes, Madonna-like, up to the skies: "My dearest wish is this, said she, 'That God may spare my child to me.'"

Again, I asked the woman old, To whom the world seemed hard and cold: "Pray tell me, O thou hoariest of hoars, What are thy hopes, what are thy fears?" With folded hands and head bent low, Her answer came, in words so slow: "For me remains but one request: It is that God may give me rest."

CONVERSATION

She (scoffingly)—Why, that Mr. Smallpay has asked me to marry him seven times. He—Great Scott! Most men are satisfied with one time.

It is now said that the marriage of Miss Louise Morris and Frederick Gehard will take place in Baltimore a few days before Ash Wednesday.

The only time a married couple can be really happy while they are boarding is during the first three months after the wedding. They don't notice the difference then.

William Hutchins and Martha Young, from the interior of Kentucky, drove thirteen miles to Indiana's Gretna Green, and there married. They distanced Papa Young and a shotgun.

Another marriage is said to be in contemplation in the Gould family. Miss Anna Gould having lost her heart to a young man named Harrison, a resident of New York, and a close personal friend of her brother's.

He—If you loved me you would marry me while I'm poor. She—You do me injustice. I love you too much to have your precious health risked by my cooking.

Sympathizing Friend—I'm sorry to learn that your marriage with the rich American heiress is an unhappy one. Is it on account of her disposition? Impetuous Foreign Prince—Yes—her disposition to handle all ze money herself.

Miss Lettice—But why, Count Frederigo, should you desire to marry me? Think—you can hardly speak English so that I can understand you. Count Frederigo—Oh, my love, vat English do I need to casha da check for you?

The marriage of Miss Carolina Livingston, daughter of Johnston Livingston of New York, to Count Laugier-Villars of Paris took place at noon on Wednesday in St. Patrick's cathedral. Archbishop Corrigan performed the marriage ceremony and celebrated the nuptial mass, while the civil ceremony, which took place at the home of Mr. Livingston, in 215th street, was conducted by Judge Lawrence of the supreme court.

Miss Jennie George and Salini Tommaso Salini, both Syrians, were married the other day in Cairo, Ill., according to the custom of their country. Several athletes and dancing girls from the Midway Pleasure were secured for the bridegroom's amusement, and for three days they gyrated and danced before him, while the bride, heavily veiled, fasted in seclusion. After the marriage ceremony the entire party paraded the streets, headed by a brass band and two athletes.

The engagement is announced of Miss Anna Baker of St. Paul, Minn., to Dr. J. Edward Stubbert of New York City. Miss Baker is a daughter of the American minister to Nicaragua and Salvador, and the wedding will take place some time in the coming spring at the United States legation in Managua, Central America. Dr. Stubbert is the special representative of the Nicaragua Canal company in Nicaragua, and was during the period of its active operations chief surgeon of the staff of physicians for several months and days.

A declaration of marriage in Siam is simpler even than it used to be in Scotland. You ask a lady to marry you by merely offering her a flower. The flower of the bride and of the groom have to put up \$1,000 apiece for a dowry. Unlike Japan, the Siamese women are treated by men as equals, yet they can seldom read or write. The chief bar to marriage in Siam is that each year is named after an animal, and that only certain animals are allowed to intermarry. For instance, a person born in the year of the rat cannot marry a person born in the year of the dog; and there are similar emblems upon months and days.

While Eugene Sandow, the strong man, was performing at the Crystal palace in London a couple of years ago the platform on which he was supporting horses on his breast broke and it was only his presence of mind that saved him from being crushed to death. As it was he escaped unhurt and crowds of people pushed forward to shake hands with him and congratulate him.

In the midst of this excitement a lady, who was sitting in a box, threw him a bunch of violets. A few months later a runaway truck horse came near rushing into a coupe occupied by a lady. Sandow, who chanced to be passing, saw the danger, and by his great strength succeeded in diverting the course of the runaway horse, and so saved the life of the young lady. She proved to be the same who had thrown him the bunch of violets, and Sandow now learned that her name was Miss Blanche Brooks. They subsequently became engaged and expect to be married this summer.

Walter Chedick, a Carson business man, proposes that the state of Nevada should issue \$3,000,000 of 3 per cent. bonds to build a road through Diamond valley, round the south end of Lake Tahoe, along Lake valley and down the mountain to the Sacramento, making Nevada a competitive point.

Cook's Extra Dry Imperial Champagne is the pure juice of the grape naturally fermented. For bouquet it has no superior.

HANDS THAT RAKE THE POT

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And Sequester the Pot at the Same Time—A Lonesome Ace That Found Its Fellows—Flashes, Fours and Pairs.

"When I speak about great draws and big hands I refer, of course, to those games," he remarked. "Nothing is strange in a crooked game. Every man around a table would hold five aces if you dealt them to him, and there would be nothing remarkable about that, but, speaking of five aces, I know of five aces being held in a square game. In New Orleans, you know, there is big poker going on every night and there are only gentlemen in the game. At the beginning of the game each one takes \$500 worth of chips. No money ever passes at the table. The game is unlimited. Well, it has a limit—\$5,000, but \$5,000 is about the same as no limit. They always play with two decks of cards, and while one is dealt the other is shuffled ready for the next deal. About two years ago four gentlemen were playing in the game. One had a straight flush pat and another held three aces before the draw. They soon exhausted their little \$500 worth of chips and then bet their thousands. Finally the man with the ace in his hand for the draw. In the draw he got two more aces, making five aces in his hand. He showed his hand right away, saying there was evidently a mistake in the deck. The man with the straight flush claimed the money. The other two left the decision to the other gentlemen about the table, and the referees decided the bets off. By a mistake the extra ace had been shifted from one deck into the other. Now, perhaps it wasn't very remarkable that one card should be in the wrong deck, but think of that ace being next another ace, and that these two aces should be dealt to a man who already had three aces in his hand. All over the south that hand is famous.

Some Good Hands Beaten.

"Once I was playing in a game in the Rouse house in this city," continued Mr. Hart. "I borrowed \$500 to get into the game, by the way. One time when I was dealing a man across the table had aces up and I held a king full on queens. I knew what he had and I knew there was another ace right at the bottom of the pack. "I thought you were telling us only about square games, Billy," interrupted an Examiner reporter. "Well, the draw was square," answered Hart. "I knew what he had before the draw and I knew where a third ace lay in the deck. I did not know what card I gave him when he called for one. Now you know a man might play 100 years and not hand out that lonesome fourth ace right from the top of the pack. Well, that was where the fourth ace lay, and the fellow with his ace full of course broke me with my king full. That was as remarkable a draw as ever occurred. I knew the position of three of the aces and the card he drew was the fourth, to which I had no objection because the chance that he would not get it was sufficient for me to bet against. Do you know, the man who loaned me that \$500 thought I purposely played away his money and then divided with the other fellows. I guess he thinks so to this day, but I tell you, boys, I was a good deal more surprised than he was when I saw that ace full spread out on the table.

"I held four tens pat in a game I was playing in at Sioux City," continued Mr. Hart, "as some one asked him his highest hand that ever was beaten. "One of the men playing was very drunk. He had been plunging all the time, betting high whether he had anything or not. I was waiting for a big hand, because I knew that as soon as I came I could break him. My four tens came just at the right time. There was a jackpot and I had the first say. I opened it gently, say for \$25, because I knew the drunken fellow would come back at me. He did with a big raise. I just called him, because I wanted more play after the draw, and he was sure to bet everything he had. I looked over my hand slowly, as though in deep thought, and then called for one more. "I drew to the strength of my hand, and he called the other fellow. Then I made a heavy bet and he came at me harder. We kept at each other back and forth until all his money was on the table. I showed down my four tens. He skinned me for two tens. He had drawn two more queens to his pair.

An Honest Hand Beats a Skin Deal.

"I saw a square hand win in a crooked game in a club house in Butte City, Mont., if you insist upon something about crooked games when I went to tell you about square games. There were five men playing. Two of them were in together, to do an end run on me, but they did not want to take anything from the fifth fellow, who was a kind of friend of theirs, though he did not know there was anything wrong about the game. One of the two who were doing the crooked work trumped the cold ace, and he dealt great hands to the two fellows who were to be skinned. One was four nines, I think, and the other a jack full. He was careful to give no pair to the man he wanted to befriended and he dealt his partner the winning hand. He thought it was the winning hand. Well, to the surprise of the men who had put up the cold deck, the fifth fellow with no pair stayed right in and saw every raise. They didn't dare kick him or wink at him, so he piled his money in with the rest. In the draw he took a card and then he was raising more than anybody else around the table. There was \$3,000 in the pot at the show-down and the fellow that had no pair won it all. The man that fixed the deck had paid no attention to suits; he was looking out only for pairs and threes and fours. He dealt the fifth man a four straight of clubs and the one card he drew made a straight flush.

"The best draw I ever saw was in Olympia during a session of the Washington legislature. One senator there was wild about poker. He wanted to take the bride off every hand. To win \$1,000 on a bluff was worth \$1,000 to him. One time in the Senator's club house was heavy betting before the draw. The plunger was in and raised until all his money was up, so of course there could be no betting after the draw. He put down his hand, and I never saw a worse hand. He had no pair, even a face card. He was going to throw away the bunch and call for five cards

when he noticed that he held the nine and ten of clubs. "I'll draw to a straight flush; give me three," said he, and, do you know, the three cards that came to him were all nines. Of course he then had four nines and he drew in the pot. One man had a pat jack full and another had three kings.

Railroad Sharpers Surprise.

"I made a rather good draw myself one day on the train coming from Fresno. Three of the gamblers who worked the Pullmans tried to get me to play cards. I knew their business as soon as I saw them, but they did not know me. Two of them were dressed as country boys, and the third was a well-dressed gentleman. He looked as much like a gentleman as a bulldog. They started in the stale old way, suggesting a game of euchre. One would remark that he would like to bet his euchre hand in a poker game and another would agree with him. Well, I consented to play euchre with them, but first I looked carefully at their cards, and then I went to my grip. I had a couple of packs of cards in my bag—not for poker, I never gambled on the train. That kind of game was too raw. Sometimes I made the acquaintance of gentlemen on the trains and afterward played with them in their clubs or hotels, but on the trains I played nothing except an occasional game of whist. I could not resist, though, attending to the case of those three train gamblers. I happened to have a pack just like the cards with which they were playing. I took from it an ace. Then I joined in the game and hid my money. Then one of them said he'd like to bet his hand in poker and the others said they'd agree to change the game, holding the hands dealt to them for euchre. I consented also, and we bet our money. They bet all they had, including a roll of bogus bills, called 'spies,' used for that sort of work. Then I showed down four aces and pecked at the money.

"You should hear them roar when I took the money. At Lathrop I saw a hotel runner I used to know. I pointed out to him the gamblers, and then I handed him the roll of 'spies,' and I says to him give them back to those fellows, but I kept the good money."

"Great Lord," said the hotel runner, "did those fellows try to skin you?" "They did," I answered softly.

"The fools," said he. "I put up half the money to stake 'em to make a winning on the train, and they played it off against Billy Hurt, taking him for a dude."

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Alex. Thompson, who, a short time ago, dug a hole on Big Bear mesa and to a depth of fifteen inches struck bedrock and took out some coarse placer gold, says the Prescott (Ariz.) Courier, now feels satisfied that the gold came from a quartz ledge which he discovered 200 feet from the point where he first found the gold. He was in town yesterday with some fine gold quartz from the ledge, which he says is about eighty feet in width.

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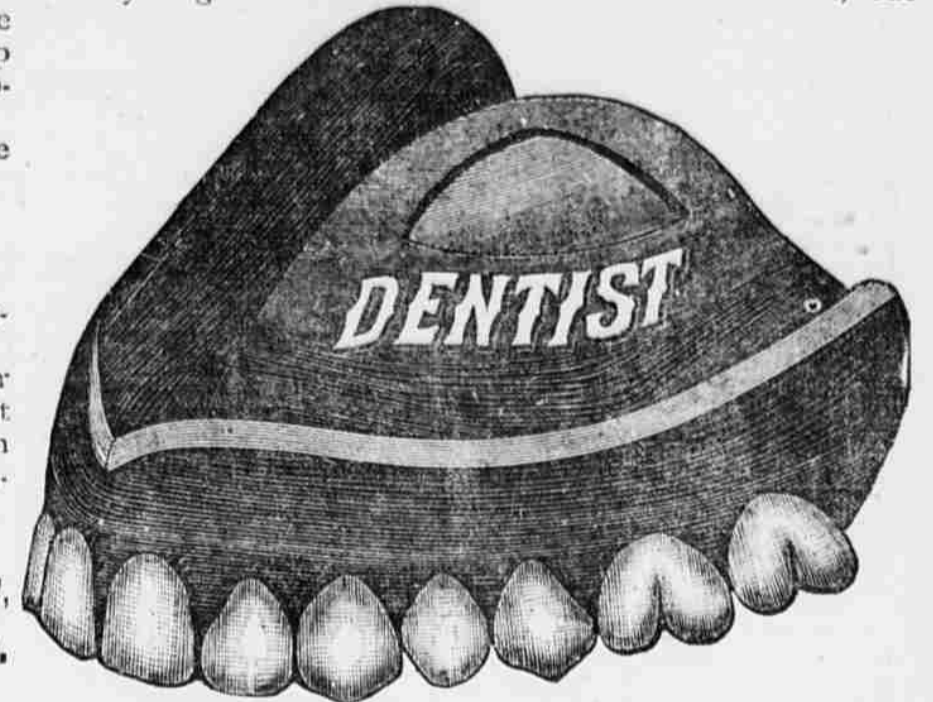
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