

THE FIELD OF ELECTRICITY

Radical Departure in the System of Telephone Taxation in Ohio

TARIFF ON ELECTRICITY MADE IN CANADA

Many Objections to the General Use of Wireless Telegraphy—Valuable Improvements in Telephones Perfected Abroad.

The decision of the supreme court of Ohio on the taxable value of telephones establishes an important precedent in the matter of taxing public utilities. The question determined was whether telephone instruments should be assessed on the basis of their actual cost or the rental value. The former was placed at \$1.40, the latter at \$2.27. The court decided in favor of the rental value. The decision was rendered in a suit brought by Attorney General Monnett by a friendly arrangement between the state auditor and W. H. Halliday, auditor of Franklin county. The latter on the 1st of August by the state auditor to list the telephones of the Bell company at their rental value, but refused to do so and mandamus proceedings were instituted in the supreme court to compel him to comply with the request.

The attorney general, in his letter to the state auditor instructing him to bring the suit against Halliday, estimating the number of Bell telephones in use in Ohio at 25,000, said: "In ascertaining the market value of almost all other taxable property in the state we have assumed to fix the values at the earning capacity of the property on a per cent basis. If each of these instruments earns \$14 over and above repairs to the Bell Telephone company it represents a value of \$25 to each instrument. On 25,000 instruments it represents an earning in the state of Ohio that is being protected by our laws and receiving all the benefits of police regulations of \$353,000. Under the principle laid down in the Nichols law (which does not specifically refer to the Bell Telephone company) we take the entire value of their plant at \$97,000,000, which is its market value, and take Ohio's proportion of it as a part of the tax."

To put the Bell Telephone company on the same basis as the Western Union Telegraph company, or the express companies, and counting the average rate in the state as we do on those companies at 25 mills, the Bell Telephone company would owe to the State of Ohio taxes to the amount of about \$80,000 annually. Or, taking one-third of the value off of the original earning amount of \$23 per instrument, would leave them about \$160 per instrument as the taxable value. The Central Union Telephone company and other telephone companies refuse to pay the tax upon this property because they do not and cannot own these instruments.

"We have taxed all other corporations this year, in addition to the regular tax upon their property, \$108,000, under the Nichols law. In simple justice to the other corporations that have had to bear their fair share of the burdens, I think it is your duty to at once send out notices to the county auditors of the state requiring them to place upon their respective duplicates their taxing districts all of the property of the Bell Telephone company within their district at a reasonable valuation."

"If they have not already done so, they should be placed on the tax duplicate as delinquent for the five years last past."

Tariff on Electricity.

The officials of the Treasury department are considering the question of imposing a duty on an electric current generated in Canada and conducted across the border into the United States. The question was raised by the Niagara Falls Power company of Niagara Falls, N. Y., against the Ontario Power company, the rival concern across the river at Niagara Falls, Ont. The Ontario Power company proposes to extend its lines to as many points as possible in the United States, selling its light and power to as many customers as it can get. This business, of course, competes seriously with that of the American company and in a communication to the Treasury department to place upon their respective duplicates their taxing districts all of the property of the Bell Telephone company within their district at a reasonable valuation.

The apparatus is constructed so that a very small magnetic needle, which is connected with the steel ribbon of the telephone, influences a steel ribbon which in turn runs in touch with the magnetic needle and the work is done. While the instrument is operating and a person talks into the telephone the magnetism in the steel ribbon is influenced by the electric current to such a degree that the magnetism is recorded. At the receiving end it is only necessary to let the steel ribbon pass later before the electric needle and the current will then reproduce the words sent over the wire. Just as soon as the message has been heard, by passing a magnet over the steel ribbon, the message is wiped off immediately and the instrument is ready to receive messages again.

The experiments which have recently been made in Copenhagen have been so successful that a company has been formed to introduce the invention through the world. Patents have been applied for in all the principal countries of the world. The experiments so far with this telephone-phonograph go to show that this method is distinctly better than the ordinary fable phonograph. Why this should be no one seems to know. The question arises whether this method would have any effect on the clearness of the message. Apprehension was felt that if the message was held for several days the words would be inaudible. To test this the steel ribbon was removed from the machine and laid flat on a table. When placed in position it gave the message very plainly.

The only drawback to the present receiving instrument is its size. It is somewhat larger than the ordinary fable phonograph. But there is reason to suppose that it can be constructed as small as the instruments now placed on the market. The new phonograph is a separate instrument, and if no use for it exists for some time it can be disconnected and placed on one side. It is arranged so that when the steel ribbon is wound on one end, the talker is at one end and the listener at the other end there is only the phonograph connection. He will therefore, frame his message accordingly. So far as the central station is concerned, no extra work is done by the operators being quite to the contrary, when a phonograph connection is present the operators will not be called upon as frequently as before. Paulsen is the son of one of the best-known lawyers in Copenhagen and has written considerable on the subject of physics as well as chemistry. His parents are wealthy. This allowed him, to some extent, to devote his time to the problem which he has recently solved.

Electrical Flashlight.
A new electrical flashlight is far ahead of all the ordinary magnesium compounds used by photographers for flashlight purposes, being absolutely safe. It consists of two cells of a powerful dry battery suitably inclosed in a box. The flash powder is in a small round box, is poured out on a card on the box at a point to which a platinum fuse has been conducted. To ignite the powder the electrical current is closed by lightly touching a string which brings the connecting wires into contact, causing the current to heat the platinum fuse to redness and instantly fire the powder. This mode of operating enables the photographer to remain at some distance from the flash, as the string can be made of any length. It is an excellent method for the taking of instantaneous interior daylight photographs of children and infants, as it gives very soft and pleasing pictures. The flashlight can be located six or eight feet from the subject, arranged to illuminate the shadow side of the face, the shutter of the camera being set at a very slow speed. Taking the operating bulb of the camera in one hand and the string of the flash lamp in the other the photographer can set both off at the same time, compressing the shutter bulb with the right hand and pulling the string with the left hand.

Wireless Telegraphy.
Prof. Edith Thomson, in lecturing on the "Recent Advances in Electrical Science," in Lynn, Mass., recently gave a description of a wireless system of wireless telegraphy, saying that while it was a very beautiful system and might be of great practical use, there were many objections to its wide adoption and many difficulties in the way of its perfection. Any man by setting up a receiving wire would intercept the message, and in the case of war the enemy could either read the message sent or by setting up another instrument could send confusing messages. A wire would stop the waves, and over a certain distance the curvature of the earth would probably stop them. The waves would course that they would get around most obstacles. Wireless telegraphy would fill a valuable gap. For it is certain that it would be invaluable, and a vessel number could be flashed out, and any vessel going by, no matter what the weather conditions were, could read the signal by simply running up a receiving wire to its mast. Vessels at sea could find out each other's positions, and in time of war

DRAMATIC SCENE IN COURT

Murderer Collins is Confronted with Splinters from the Skull of His Victim.

DEAD MAN'S WIDOW AND CHILD LOOK ON

County Attorney Brings in Remarkably Large List of Witnesses and the Trial is Very Costly to the County.

Splinters from the skull of Charles R. Grove, who was shot and killed on the night of December 10 by Thomas Collins, were displayed in the trial of the murderer before Judge Baker yesterday as an exhibit in the testimony of Dr. Robert Gilmore, who attended the dying man. Mrs. Grove, widow of the deceased, and her little son, a bright lad of 7 years, looked on while the doctor handled the pieces of bone and explained to the jury the nature of the wound. It was a dramatic scene, as widow and orphan were given this ghastly reminder of the tragedy that disrupted their home. Mrs. Grove made no demonstration, but the look of anguish that spread over her face told more plainly than words the story of her suppressed emotion. The county attorney has caused fifty-nine witnesses to appear on behalf of the state—an unusually large number in a case that seems so clearly established. These witnesses cost the taxpayers \$2 per day each, and although they may all be called upon to testify, the great expense was made so by reason of the fact that Collins leaned over the bar in Grove's saloon and shot him while he was crouching under the bar in a desperate effort to shield himself. All of this has been verified under oath just as it was related in newspaper accounts at the time of the murder. The clothes worn by Collins on the night he slew Grove are on exhibition in the court room, although no point has been gained thus far by the introduction of the garments.

Another exhibit is the club which a bartender in Grove's saloon used on the head of Collins after the deed had been committed. The blow struck by the bartender sent Collins sprawling to the floor and thus his escape was prevented. Aside from the doctor who testified during the forenoon Chief of Police Donahue and Coroner Swanson were on the witness stand. Their evidence brought out nothing new from that which has already been reported. The blow struck by the bartender sent Collins sprawling to the floor and thus his escape was prevented.

TO SET ASIDE DIVORCE DECREE.
Mrs. Thompson Alleges Her Husband Was Not Entitled to Judgment.

Mrs. Thompson yesterday brought a motion in the district court asking that a divorce decree rendered October 25 in favor of Charles L. Thompson be set aside. Among the chief allegations are that the Douglas county trial judge had no jurisdiction on account of the plaintiff not being a bona fide resident of Omaha and that the decree did not contain facts sufficient to constitute cause of action. Deserter was the allegation upon which Thompson secured separation.

Thompson represented to the court in the regular manner that he had lived in Douglas county for the period of one year before Mrs. Thompson sets forth that he is in reality a resident of St. Louis. The Thompsons were married in St. Clair county, Illinois, April 8, 1885.

Goldsmith Heirs Bring Suit.
Max Goldsmith and other heirs of Fannie Goldsmith, deceased, have brought suit in United States court to recover on a policy of insurance for \$2,500 issued by the Covenant Mutual Life association. The plaintiffs allege that the policy was issued long prior to the death of Fannie Goldsmith, which occurred on June 26, 1899, and that the amount pledged has not been paid.

Judge Munger Looks Up Law.
Judge Munger spent the greater portion of yesterday in looking up the law in the case against the Greater America Exposition, brought by the employees, who seek to have an order in bankruptcy issued which would prevent the exhibition from being held. It is likely that the opinion will be handed down Saturday morning.

GOVERNMENT WILL DEFEND
Interests of Corporal Fair and Private Jockens Are to Be Protected.

Corporal Fair and Private Jockens, soldiers at Fort Crook, are to be arrested by the sheriff of Sarpy county this morning on an information charging them with the murder of Private Morgan, a soldier at the same post. The two men will be taken to Papillion, where they will be arraigned before County Judge Howard. They will plead not guilty and it is more than likely that the hearing will be set for next Tuesday morning. At the arraignment and the hearing the defendants will be represented by the United States Attorney, who has been instructed by the authorities at Washington to act in the premises.

It will be remembered that some weeks ago Morgan deserted from the post and was pursued by Fair and Jockens, who overtook him in the vicinity of La Platte, where, upon refusal to halt when commanded, he was shot and killed.

After the shooting the army officers took the matter up and arrested the two men. They were court-martialed and upon being tried were acquitted, the contention being that they were in pursuit of a deserter and that their acts were within the scope of their authority. After the court-martial the state authorities commenced an investigation, with the result that it has been decided to arrest and prosecute under the laws of the state.

DEATH TAKES MATCH PEDDLER
Omaha People Will Miss the Familiar Face of Old John Jay.

John Jay died at 4:20 a. m. yesterday on a cot in cell No. 1 at the city jail. He was found very sick in a saloon at Sixteenth and Cass streets shortly after 9 o'clock Wednesday night by Officer Flynn and taken to the police station by order of Dr. Ralph Ross. The doctor saw at once that the old man was suffering from his last illness and medicine was given to ease the pain until he died. The remains were taken in charge by Coroner Swanson.

John Jay was one of Omaha's most familiar characters. He had long gray whiskers and white hair. He had lost his left arm in the civil war, and his sole occupation for twenty years in the city has been the peddling of matches. A pension from the government kept him alive and enabled him with enough drink to bring him to the police station at least once a week. Drunkenness was the only offense ever charged against the man. He was honest and harmless. It is not known that the old man had a friend in the world.

SURE CURE FOR COUG.
Twenty-Five Years' Constant Use Without a Failure.

The first indications of croup is hoarseness and in a child subject to that disease it may be taken as a sure sign of the approach of an attack. Following this there is a peculiar rough cough. If Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is given as soon as the child becomes hoarse, or even after the croup cough appears, it will prevent the attack. It is a broad based remedy and relieves the anxious mothers. We have yet to learn of a single instance in which it has not proved effectual. No other preparation can show such a record—twenty-five years' constant use without a failure.

NEED FOR MORE BLUECOATS

Chief Donahue Will Ask that Forty Men Be Added to Force.

MAYOR MOORES APPROVES OF INCREASE

Comparison with Other Cities Shows Omaha Far in Rear as Regards Police Protection, Though the Force Does Good Service.

Chief of Police Donahue has recommended to the mayor that forty patrolmen be added to the police force for 1900 and the executive expresses himself in favor of the proposed increase. In the case of the new levy the mayor's council relative to the new levy the mayor will undoubtedly urge that more funds be set aside for the safekeeping of the city. Police Commissioner Collins said yesterday that the board had assurance that the police levy would this year be increased to the constitutional limit—\$115,000. Owing to the insufficient general levy of 25 mills this year only 2 1/2 mills, or \$7,541.63, was available for the force. Owing to rigid economy practiced by Chief White and his successor, Chief Donahue, there will be no overdraw in this department as in the case of other departments in the city government. To make ends meet, however, it has been necessary to curtail the force to a point which makes it absolutely impossible to properly patrol the city. Early in the year, when it was apparent that the levy would not hold out, twenty-six men were discharged on their own account and were subjected to an enforced vacation without pay. Every thirty days six patrolmen had been laid off for the ensuing month, which virtually decreased the force permanently by that number.

Force is Inadequate.
As the result of this economy only seventy-one men were left on the force, including men, messengers, jailers, patrol drivers and conductors, captains, sergeants, patrolmen, clerks and the chief himself. When those who do not walk beats are subtracted and the remaining force is divided into day and night shifts so scant a showing is made that the police officials are unwilling that the facts should be published lest criminals might be attracted in this direction. When it is considered that the city limits include twenty-five square miles and that the river is thirty-four miles long, Chief Donahue considers that the force is to be congratulated on the infrequency of crime. The exposition crowds have been handled successfully, as evidenced by a letter from Superintendent J. A. Tucker of the Omaha Street Railway company in the hands of the chief, expressing thanks for the protection afforded to the patrons of the company during the year. The holiday crowds have also come and gone with very few reports of sniffling or pocket-picking having been made.

Statistics from Other Cities.
As a basis for his request for a larger appropriation Chief Donahue has corresponded with various cities of a size approximate to Omaha and finds that in every case they are much more amply provided with men and money for police protection than Omaha. A portion of the letter from Minneapolis reads as follows:

"MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Chief of Police Donahue, Dear Sir: The entire police force of this city consists of 208 men, including 122 patrolmen, fourteen mounted patrolmen, four captains, three lieutenants and fifteen sergeants. I might add that I consider the present force entirely inadequate and we need at least seventy-five more patrolmen."

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BRAZEN ATTEMPT AT BRIBERY

Story of How an Omaha City Official Received a Temptation and Received His Due Reward.

A good holiday story is being told on a well known inhabitant of the city hall. A few days before Christmas a wagon drove up to his house and deposited on the front porch a sack of mahogany chair wheels. Identification was contained in a tag inscribed with the name of the address city official.

"Where could it come from?" asked his wife when he returned to the house.

"I can't tell," said even imagine who could have sent a present like that."

"Did any one down at the office say they intended to remember you on Christmas?"

"Not that I know of. I can't think of any one unless it is some contractor who thinks he can curry favor in this department. The county attorney has caused fifty-nine witnesses to appear on behalf of the state—an unusually large number in a case that seems so clearly established. These witnesses cost the taxpayers \$2 per day each, and although they may all be called upon to testify, the great expense was made so by reason of the fact that Collins leaned over the bar in Grove's saloon and shot him while he was crouching under the bar in a desperate effort to shield himself. All of this has been verified under oath just as it was related in newspaper accounts at the time of the murder. The clothes worn by Collins on the night he slew Grove are on exhibition in the court room, although no point has been gained thus far by the introduction of the garments."

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RIFLES ADD NEW MEMBERS
Thirty-Five Names Added to Ranks and Prospect of a Club House Grows Brighter.

At a meeting of the Thurston Rifles' board of Directors Wednesday the names of thirty-five candidates were approved and added to the membership roll. There are about an equal number of applicants who have not as yet been passed upon. The total membership of the society is now about 100. Several months after their return the young militiamen lost interest in drill to a certain extent, owing to their continued experience in the Philippines, but they are now beginning the study of the tactics with fresh zest. The drill team, which is supplied with three sets of uniforms—drill, fatigue dress and fatigue—has begun active practice two evenings in the week and expects soon to get into its old-time form.

A partial assurance has been received from Senator Thurston and Congressman Mercer that a supply of Kragsen rifles will be secured from the government arsenal for the use of the company.

The project of a new club house is rapidly being developed and an attractive plan of the proposed edifice now hangs on the wall of the room. The society does not wish to undertake any plan before it is assured that ample resources are at hand to carry it out, but little doubt is felt but what the building will be begun with the opening of spring. A building company is ready to begin operations on the structure at once whenever the society feels ready to give it assurance of permanency of occupancy.

BALTIMORE TO PAY ITS DEBTS

Mayor Denies the Story that City Will Default on Payment of Interest.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 28.—Mayor Hayes and other officials of this city were greatly gratified by the publication in a New York financial newspaper of the report that Baltimore city would probably default upon the interest of some of its bonds on January 1. The mayor, as soon as his attention was called to the report, sent a note to the Associated Press as follows: "The city of Baltimore will not default or fail to meet all its obligations on January 1, 1900. The finance commissioners have adopted a resolution agreeing to pay in full the \$275,000 Western Maryland railway bonds guaranteed by the city and falling due on that day."

"THOMAS G. HAYES, Mayor,"
Colonel Frank J. Sipple, the city register, supplemented this statement by saying that he deemed it his duty to report, as well as others of a similar nature affecting the credit of the city of Baltimore, wholly false.

EVERY BOY WANTS WADERS—

Of course our one fifty boys shoes are not waders, but they come as near as a leather shoe can.—They're made of plump leather with good solid soles.—Most parents know by this time that they are the best \$1.50 shoe sold anywhere.—We know they're genuine calf-skin or we wouldn't claim they were.—and we know and you will know when you see them, that they are worth more than we ask for them.—We do business that way—a higher value than our price.—We mean you pay more elsewhere for the same shoe.

Drexel Shoe Co.

Omaha's Up-to-date Shoe House.
1619 FARNAM STREET.

At the Y. M. C. A.—

and Emma Nevada concerts yesterday the incomparable Knabe piano was used—the great diva selected it for its beautiful mellow quality of tone—a tone so essential for accompaniments.—Mr. Sherwood, the greatest American pianist for its volume of tone and ready response to the touch.—We have an exhibition in our Auditorium a Knabe concert upright piano, said by the trade to be the finest upright piano ever manufactured—but "there are others" of the same reliable make, but in all the different sizes from the smallest upright to the large concert grand.—We sell them on easy payments.

A. HOSPE,

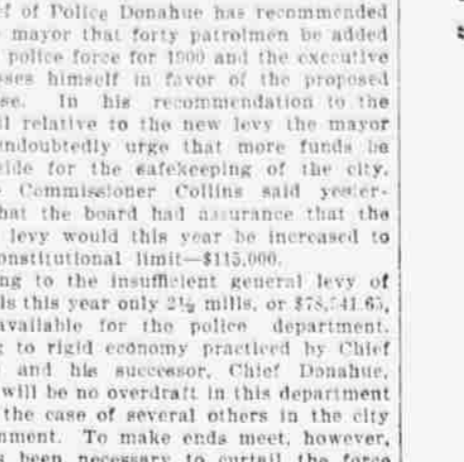
Music and Art. 1513 Douglas.

CASTORIA

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The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson.



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Ivory Soap costs a little more, but it takes less to do the work, and how much whiter the clothes are when they have been washed with it.

A WORD OF WARNING.—There are many white soaps, each represented to be "just as good as the Ivory," they ARE NOT, but like all counterfeiters, lack the peculiar and remarkable qualities of the genuine. Ask for "Ivory" Soap and insist upon getting it.

could not legally improve ground not owned or controlled by the city. The monthly bills were audited and approved. The payroll and bills payable from the fund amounted to \$897.15 and from the park fund \$806.27, a total of \$1,847.42.

AMERICANIZING THE CANAL

Panama Company Incorporates in the United States—Backed by Big Houses.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The incorporation of the Panama Canal Company of America is said to be the first move in a plan to transfer the Panama canal to Americans, in order that it may have a better chance to struggle with the Nicaraguan concessionaires. The banking houses and individuals who are interested in the canal are August Belmont & Co., Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Levi P. Morton, Charles R. Flint, J. Edward Simmons, president of the Fourth National Bank; Edward Sweet & Co., George Sheldon & Co., Harding, Magoun & Co. and George W. Young, president of the United States Mortgage and Trust company.

In addition to these several banking houses in San Francisco and in cities in the south and west are interested in the company. The Herald says this incorporation of an American company is the result of negotiations between representatives of the French company, including Baron Oppenheim, who came to this city from Paris several months ago, and leading financiers of America. The representative of the French company came to this country empowered to transfer the rights of the company to an American company, and this company having now been incorporated, the transfer will be shortly effected. The transfer to be given formal approval by the shareholders in France. These shareholders will receive shares in the new American company in proportion to their holdings in the old. This "Americanizing" of the Panama canal, as one of the gentlemen interested in the new company styled it yesterday, has been brought about in order to place the Panama canal on a footing in America more satisfactory to the French company and to place it on the same basis as the Nicaragua canal before the United States government.

Come to Attend Wedding.
In a special cut over the Milwaukee road from Chicago a party of Chicago and Milwaukee