

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871. OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1905—FOUR SECTIONS—THIRTY-FOUR PAGES. SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

COST OF TELEPHONES

Chairman of Representatives of Municipalities Owning Lines Talks in London.

FINDS RATES LOWER ON CONTINENT

Denmark and Sweden Enjoy Especially Low Rates for Extended Service.

NATION AND CITIES SHOULD CO-OPERATE

Government Should Not Drive Municipalities Out of the Business.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IS A SUCCESS

Investigation Shows that Local Management is Better Than National and Cities Can Compete with Private Lines.

LONDON, Sept. 9.—(Special Cablegram to the Lee.)—A great deal of interest having been aroused in the telephone system in London, the Postoffice department is preparing to take over the telephone systems of the United Kingdom, D. M. Stevenson, chairman of the committee of representatives of the telephone companies, which met in London from time to time during the sittings of the select committee on postoffice (telephone agreement), is out in an interview, in which he says:

The select committee was appointed on May 22 last, on the motion of the postmaster general, and consisted of seven members, four Liberals and three Conservatives. When asking for the appointment of the committee, Lord Stanley told the House of Commons that the committee would not be a body of inquiry, but that it would then let the agreement drop and commence de novo with a new agreement.

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While, therefore, we recommend that in the general public mind the House of Commons should not disapprove of the agreement, with the modifications that we have proposed, we believe that the agreement is operative until a pledge has been given to the House that before the end of January, 1912 nothing shall be done by the government whereby the question of future ownership and of the telephone system (as distinct from the ownership and management of trunk lines) may be prejudicially affected.

Position of Lord Stanley. Surely, the only course open to Lord Stanley, in accordance with his pledge, was to let the agreement drop and commence de novo with the new agreement. But he said it was not his intention to do this, and he might be his private and personal opinion, or give a pledge that after all he should give a consideration to the telephone system as a whole system should be invested in the hands of the postmaster general, and the idea in making this agreement was that in 1911, when the license came to an end, the government should be free to adopt which ever system the government might think the most desirable.

When the whole telephone system of the country was in the hands of the postmaster general, the Government would be free to let the license expire and to let the system be worked locally throughout the country by municipal corporations or other representative bodies, and the postmaster general might sell or rent the plant in the local area to the telephone system local representative body.

But both Lord Stanley and Austen Chamberlain said they were against this course and they assured the House that regarding the telephone system, the government was not negotiating the agreement. Lord Stanley added that if the advantages of the agreement were not to be done for the municipalities, which wished to compete and which had competing systems, and if the Government to show the small number of municipalities which had applied for licenses, that would have had great weight with the House. John Burns, for instance, being reported as having said:

"If it were true that out of 1,300 local authorities in the United Kingdom who were connected with the telephone system only five were doing so, then the mere statement of that fact seemed to him to disclose a very serious situation. Municipalities might set up to compete either with the telephone company or the postoffice."

Progress of Municipal Ownership. I submit that this was hardly fair argument. Mr. Hanbury's proposal for the granting of municipal telephone licenses was only passed in 1905, after five or six years' experience. The Government got the first license, began operations in September, 1905, Portsmouth in 1907, Brighton and Hove in 1908, and in 1904. Municipal corporations are slow to move and the bulk of them naturally preferred to wait until they were free to portments being made in Glasgow, etc., before embarking on the undertaking of telephone enterprise. Long before there had been time to make trustworthy decisions from the municipal corporations, it emerged that the postoffice was determined to get complete possession and with that object in view had determined to buy the plant for the purchase of the National company's undertaking in 1904, which was a satisfactory arrangement could not be arranged, so negotiations for taking over the company's plant in 1911 were abandoned.

Obviously it is only recently that the municipal systems are being taken over, and trustworthy financial results. These prove beyond doubt that in the telephone-owning municipalities, telephone service is getting facilities incomparably better than they had formerly, and that the telephone company are only paying about half the rates paid to the company, and yet that the system is better.

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Mr. Austen Chamberlain said that no municipality which was not free to take over a telephone system in 1904 to terminate in 1911, cannot be said to have been free. It was made clear that the future policy was to be, in the words of Mr. Benn, "the establishment of a uniform system worked in connection with the municipalities, many of them would undoubtedly apply for licenses, and it is certain that in 1911, in the sure and certain hope that these would be granted."

Conditions in Europe. With regard to complete nationalization, which the postoffice is endeavoring to force upon the country, I have had a personal experience which I had when inquiring into the question of the telephone services some years ago in Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

I found that for 100 miles south of the Danish frontier only the two large towns had telephones, whereas in the Danish village had had its exchange, and each had its own trunk lines. The reason was obvious. The cost of the telephone system in Denmark was \$10, while the towns and villages of the Danish side were served by local companies from \$10 to \$20 a year up to \$400 calls or \$20 without limit. The famous Alimanna company of Stockholm does still a better, giving an unlimited service within a radius of forty miles for about \$750 per annum. Think of it. On that basis Manchester subscribers would be able to pay \$25 per annum to speak, not only to all Man-

ENVOYS VISIT OYSTER BAY

President Entertains the Japanese at Luncheon and the Russians at Dinner at Sagamore Hill.

OSTER BAY, L. I., Sept. 9.—

Entertaining Baron Komura and Minister Takahira at luncheon today, and M. Witte and Baron Rosen to dinner, President Roosevelt tendered the peace envoys the courtesies and expressed his gratification that their missions to America were successful.

Baron Komura and Minister Takahira arrived at Oyster Bay on board the naval yacht Sylph, which had been sent to New York for them. They reached Sagamore Hill at 1 o'clock this afternoon and were welcomed by the president. The Japanese envoys remained with the president for two hours. Luncheon was served at 1:30, the envoys being entertained by President and Mrs. Roosevelt. There were no other guests. During and after the luncheon the president and his guests discussed thoroughly the details of the peace arrangements.

Both Baron Komura and Minister Takahira expressed to the president their appreciation of his efforts, to which they attributed largely the success of the conference in reaching an agreement. A few minutes before 3 o'clock the Japanese envoys took their leave, being carried to the pier in one of the president's carriages. They went on board the Sylph.

Tonight Baron Komura and Baron Rosen were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt at dinner. M. Witte's well known antipathy to traveling by water induced the Russian envoys to make the trip to Oyster Bay by a considerable crowd had assembled at Oyster Bay and the president's motor car they were surrounded by persons curious to catch a glimpse of them. They were met by a confidential messenger of the president who accompanied them to Sagamore Hill.

M. Witte and Baron de Rosen remained with the president until 9:30. Neither would consent to discuss even in a general way their visit to the president.

DOCTOR FINDS RACE SUICIDE

Pittsburg's City Physician Makes Report Showing a Lowly Rate of Births.

PITTSBURG, Sept. 9.—A table of the births and deaths in Pittsburg during the past fourteen years, prepared by City Physician Dr. B. A. Booth for the bureau of health, shows a striking decrease in the number of births, notwithstanding a large increase in population.

In 1891 there were 7,097 births, the rate per 1,000 being 35.61. In the same year there were 2,515 deaths, the rate per 1,000 being 25.1. The table is complete to the end of 1904, which shows a decrease in the birth rate to 27.5, more than 7 per cent. The death rate is decreased from 25.1 to 19.70 from 1891 to 1904.

The figures for the last three months of this year are surprising. In 1891 the excess of births over deaths was 1,235. The figures for this year indicate that the excess of births has been wiped out and the conditions are reversed, there being a decrease of twenty-three births over the death rate.

Commenting upon the report Dr. Booth said: "The figures show that race suicide is a fact. There is no doubt that the number of births in any city is a function of the number of deaths. At the present time the advance made in science has reduced the mortality rate to such an extent that the birth rate is being reduced to such a decided decrease in the birth rate, it shows that something is radically wrong in the local area of the telephone system local representative body."

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ALL TROUP'S IS OVER

Norway Looks on Disolution of Its Union as an Accomplished Fact.

NO P/LINES IN LAND OF VIKING

Every Norsk Voter Stands Behind the Action of the Storting.

DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT

According to Views of Christiania There Will Be Little Difficulty.

ABSENCE OF KING IS NO HINDRANCE

Crown Prince, Who Acts as Regent, as Willing as Father for Peaceful Solution of Question.

CHRISTIANIA, Sept. 9.—(Special Cablegram to the Lee.)—The dissolution of the union with Sweden has been accomplished. The world has there been the unanimity manifested in the 2,000 to 1 upon the question of the dissolution of the union. To a recent parallel, the final voting in 1899 and 1900 on the question of the union for the Australian federation showed a total of 4,191,386 in favor of federation and 150,048 against, and similarly it will be found that in most recent instances of the employment of the referendum there has been evidence of the existence of a strong body of adverse opinion.

Of course the unanimous vote of the Storting on June 7 had already given sufficient indication of the temper of the nation, and at the same time the resignation of the Hagerup ministry in February had it been possible to discern in Norway the existence of any compact body of opinion in favor of the retention of the union. It was fully recognized abroad that the old divisions in Norwegian domestic politics which had opposed conservative disposition to break with Sweden to radical eagerness to assert Norway's rights at all costs had disappeared and the unanimity of Norway on the union question was regarded as an accomplished fact, but even those who had most faith in Norway's constancy were scarcely prepared for the startling completeness of the referendum.

At one time there was a disposition in Sweden to talk about designing politicians who had engineered the fortification of their opponents into sullen acquiescence. The ballot box proved the hollowness of the theory and with it the unwisdom of any attempt to depend upon the revival of party divisions in Norway. There was no reasonable doubt that the unanimity of Norway before; there can be none whatever now, in the face of the referendum returns. It is not surprising that these returns are being hailed as a public rejoicing in Christiania and elsewhere. They stand as a sign to all whom it may concern that Norway has found itself and that enthusiastic and hopeful minds the world over are turning to the glorious summer of 1905.

Working on Details. The question of whether Norway wants a dissolution having now been settled once and for all time it only remains for the details to be arranged to the satisfaction of all concerned. The Lundberg cabinet in Sweden took office for the special purpose of carrying out negotiations with Norway and the prime minister, the minister for foreign affairs and the four other members of the government sat on the special committee which framed the conditions for dissolution.

King Oscar's temporary absence from the helm is not likely to be the cause of any unnecessary delay in reaching a final settlement of affairs. His majesty has been seeking the sea, the repose which, after the strain of the past few months, stands so greatly in need. The crown prince, who fulfills the duties of regent, is known to be an advocate of a speedy and peaceable settlement of all matters in dispute between Norway and Sweden and even the question of the fortification of the frontier will be allowed to give an anxious trouble. The important question of the future relations of Norway and Sweden in regard to mutual defense still remains to be settled. Foreign interference is feared in both countries and it is believed that some understanding can be arrived at which will enable the residents of the Scandinavian peninsula to turn a solid opposition to any foreign invader in the future and in the event of a war completely destroyed. The travelers recount seeing villages reduced to ruins and men and women half clothed, weeping and seeking to find and bury the bodies of their relatives. All the debris from San Giovanni in Sicily are invaded by the population demanding succor. The spectacle is terrifying.

NOCEARA, Italy, Sept. 9.—Signor Ferraris, the minister of public works, arrived here today by special train and continued his journey toward Monteleone. The Naples express was five hours behind time. The railway lines in Calabria are much damaged, making it necessary for trains to proceed slowly, after an inspection of the route. Travelers arriving here from Calabria are profoundly impressed with the damage done by the earthquake. The station at Peggliola is completely destroyed. The travelers recount seeing villages reduced to ruins and men and women half clothed, weeping and seeking to find and bury the bodies of their relatives. All the debris from San Giovanni in Sicily are invaded by the population demanding succor. The spectacle is terrifying.

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POWDER MILL IS BLOWN UP

Nineteen Men Killed and Nine Seriously Injured at Fair Chance, Pa.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Sept. 9.—

The Rand Power mill, which occupies a mile south of Uniontown, were entirely wiped out by an explosion at 9:50 o'clock today. Of the thirty-two men who went to work in the mills this morning, nineteen are known to be dead, and thirteen have been identified. The list of dead and missing is as follows: FRED WATERSTRAW, Jr., WILLIAM MCINTYRE, died at hospital, ALBERT WOOD, died at hospital, M. H. MURPHY, died at hospital, HARRY W. WELLYN, HARRY UNDERWOOD, died at hospital, ELMER HUGHES, CLYDE WOOD, JAMES BREAKIRON, GEORGE MARTIN, EARLE BARRETT, died at the hospital, ROBERT MITCHELL, a small boy, ANAWALT BRIGGLE, FRED WATERSTRAW, Sr., WILLIAM L. WELLYN, ISAAC METCALF, FRANK RYLAND.

Besides nine of the factory force who were seriously injured, scores of people in the town of Fair Chance within half a mile of the powder mills, were more or less painfully injured.

The shock of the explosion was distinctly felt in Connelville, twenty miles away, buildings being rocked on their foundations. At Uniontown the roofs of houses of glass were broken. In the town of Fair Chance there is scarcely a house that did not suffer damage. Hay stacks were toppled over in the fields and live stock stunned. The rails of the Baltimore and Ohio and the West Pennsylvania Traction Railway Company were rooted from the roadbed and traffic was delayed from four to six hours. Train No. 82 on the Baltimore and Ohio had a narrow escape from annihilation; it had just passed the Rand mills when the explosion occurred. The windows in the passenger cars were shattered.

There were seven explosions in all, every one of the buildings was totally destroyed. It was fully recognized abroad that the old divisions in Norwegian domestic politics which had opposed conservative disposition to break with Sweden to radical eagerness to assert Norway's rights at all costs had disappeared and the unanimity of Norway on the union question was regarded as an accomplished fact, but even those who had most faith in Norway's constancy were scarcely prepared for the startling completeness of the referendum.

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Obviously it is only recently that the municipal systems are being taken over, and trustworthy financial results. These prove beyond doubt that in the telephone-owning municipalities, telephone service is getting facilities incomparably better than they had formerly, and that the telephone company are only paying about half the rates paid to the company, and yet that the system is better.

The London telephone system is admittedly much better since the postoffice entered the field, but it is not true that Glasgow telephone users, accustomed as they have been for some time to the improved service and to the uniformity of service that the National company has held its own, would not tolerate for a week the delays and annoyances to which London subscribers are subjected when they speak of the excessive rates charged.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain said that no municipality which was not free to take over a telephone system in 1904 to terminate in 1911, cannot be said to have been free. It was made clear that the future policy was to be, in the words of Mr. Benn, "the establishment of a uniform system worked in connection with the municipalities, many of them would undoubtedly apply for licenses, and it is certain that in 1911, in the sure and certain hope that these would be granted."

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