THE BEE: OMAHA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1910.



At that time an enthusiastic friend of the are made possible. There is no doubt in

inventor prophesied that in 1900 there would anyone's mind nowadays as to the conbe 100,000 telephones in this country. This venience of having a telephone in the home

prophecy, at the time, was considered by and the absolute necessity of it in a busi

mistic thought it possibly could be, and to- CENTENARY OF SAVINGS BANKS

25,000 telephones now in use in Omaha. The Scotland, there has recently been celebrated system here consists of five exchanges, the centenary of the first savings bank. Douglas, Harney, Webster, Florence and It is true that, previous to 1810, there were

Benson, all these being inter-connecting so in England and other countries a few assothat a subscriber on any other exchange clations for saving; but the savings bank, can reach any one in Omaha, Council in the sense which we attach to the term,

Omaha's first telephone directory was put can, Presbyterian minister and philanthro ut July 10, 1879. This consisted of a single pist, who, in a period of exceptional dis

theet of paper containing less than forty tress, kept down the poor rates of his parnames. This directory contained the names ish by persuading people to help them-

Those who are acquainted with the tele- in the wall or a loose board in the floor

phone only through the use of their office offered the only ways open to poor people or home instrument, little realize the com- for keeping surplus money. The banks then plicated machinery that is required to fur- existing did not accept sums under f10, nish telephone service to a city the size and to attain to the height of affluence of Omaha, but to one who has seen the represented by that amount was by no maze of 40,000 wires coming into the central station, or who tries to follow the he might be spled upon and robbed, or he

message through the various tables in its might be deprived of his money under the

wisting and turning until it reaches the polite disguise of borrowing, or, in an operator and then back again through imagined emergency, he might fall back another pair of wires on to the person who upon the reserve fund and use it needlessly receives the message, or who has explained and somewhat recklessly. Dr. Duncan be-

many to be preposterous, but the result has ness office.

been more marvelous than the most opti-

day there are more than 5,000,000 Bell tele-

phones in use in the United States and

The Nebraska Telephone company, a

Bluffs or any of the suburbs.

in active business life.

branch of the Bell system, has more than

of Omaha's pioneers, some of them still selv s.

We have paid a larger percentage of dividends to policy holders based upon Cash Surrender Value of policies, during the history of the company, than any competitor.

We led the world on gross volume of Legal Reserve Life insurance gained in Nebraska in the years 1908 and 1909.

# The Columbia Fire Insurance Company

Omaha, Nebraska

= January 1, 1910 ------

A DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNER OF THE	
Assets	\$1,284,723.99
Capital fully paid	200,000.00
Net surplus	191,413.13
Security to policy holders	
Losses paid	1,303,839.59
Losses unadjusted	



#### OMAMA NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

Webster, Howard & Co.

INSURANCE

CUDARY, President. F. McGREW, Vice-Fresident. LUTNER DRAKE, 2d Vice President.

Liability

Burglary

Bonds

Accident

Telephone Douglas 970

Paid in Capital, \$200,000,00.

COMPANNE

Health

Canada.

Steam Boiler

Automobile

Tornado

326 Bee Building

Authorized Capital, \$1,000,000.00.

MSURAMCE

Plate Glass

Fire

DIEBOTOES: A. A. Cudahy, Pres. Cudahy Facking Ca. C. F. McGrew, Capitalist. A. J. Love, Pres. Love-Maskell Oo, Insurance. John C. Cowin, Attorney-at-Law. O. W. Palm, Pres. Falm Insurance Agency. Jnc. S. Brady, V.-Pres. McCord-Brady Co. E. H. Eowell, General Insurance. Sherman Saunders, Pres. Saunders-Westrand Grain Co. Morris Levy, Fres. Nebraska Clothing Co. Frank T. Mamilton, Vice-Fres. Merchants Wational Bank.

OF YE'BRASKAL

FIRE, LIGHTNING AND WINDSTORM INSURANCE Woodmen of the World

ASSETS \$11,500,000.00

NONE BETTER GEN. J. F. T. T. T. T. Sovereign Clerk

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GENERAL AGENTS FOR NEBRASKA FOR-The Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation. The National Surety Company.

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# B. L. Baldwin & Co., **General Insurance Agents** 1221 Farnam Street.

We write all kinds of insurance on every kind of property anywhere. All losses are promptly adjusted and paid without discount or delay. We want your business and will come for it if you will phone us.

> No better companies represented. No companies better represented.

to get instant communication between a local subscriber and a distant city, begins to realize the enormity of the enterprise. Complicated Network. Every telephone instrument in Omaha is

to him the complicated, but instantaneous

wires running to the central switch-board. These wires run in bunches of twenty or more in absolutely water tight cables. These cables are moisture proof, for any drop of moisture within this cable would

cause instant trouble and cause one conversation to jump from one line to another Each of the 40,000 pairs of wires coming through the underground passage way into the Eighteenth street exchange, represents an individual telephone or a party line. Shortly after entering the building these cables are "fanned out," which means that he wires are separated and run into the individual connections along the rack in Fraternal Life Insurance other outside causes may be avoided. Each circuit is run through carbon connections order that interference with lightning and so that a stronger force than the ordinary circuit can be thrown off and "grounded, so that any charge too heavy for the switch-board, for which the message must ultimately come, is by this means thrown into the ground before it can do any harm. All of the wires from the rack to the Lasement are run to the second floor where

there is another or an intermediate distributing rack, where the paired wires are connected with relays which supply a third wire for each telephone, these three wires being used in connacting with the second system by which the central communicates with subscribers. The exchange room where the connect

tions are made is a mass of switch-boards. A constant murmur fills tais room as one must realize when it is understood that 200,000 calls are made through the switchboard every day in the year. Before every three or four feet of switch-board space a girl sits, constantly on the alert for cails coming in to her section. With her hands she is constantly manipulating the plugs, placing them in the "jacks," and listening to the calls from other subscribers at the same time.

### Girls Require Rest.

On account of the rapidity of the calls during the "rush" hours, each one of the girls is given a rest period of fifteen minutes during each two hours of work. When the subscriber takes down his re-

ceiver a small electric lamp, which represents his instrument on the board of the operator to whom he is connected, lights up. The girl reaches for a pair of cords and places the plug of one of them into the proper jack to connect her with the subscriber. Then she asks for the number. If he calls for a connection of the same exchange she puts the other plug cord into the proper jack that represents this telephone and presses a lever. The lever rings the second telephone, the one which is to receive the message. By the working of the signal light she can tell when the called receiver is taken down and when the conversation is over. When both receivers are hung up she takes out both the plugs and they do service again in connecting two others. If the subscriber imagines that he is causing the central operator any great discomfort when he jangles up and down on the receiver he is much mistaken, for it never reaches her only as the finshing of a tiny light.

For every ten or twelve girls there is an inspector who walks along behind them continually, supervising, watching, helping and working to insure patrons immediate service. There are in the employ of the company nearly 400 girls, of which number about 300 are at work in the Douglas ex-

working of the apparatus that is necessary ated by a savings bank. Once their money was safe in its keeping, he thought, people would not break in upon the little hoard except for some urgent reason

lieved that these dangers could be obvi-

Origin and Growth of Thrifty Idea

Conceived by Scotch-

In the little town of Ruthwell in southern

man.

had its real beginning with Henry Dun-

In Dr. Duncan's time, a stocking, a chink

This was plausible enough; yet there were difficulties. The poor were suspicious; politicians, Cobbett, the London Times, the ntered into the exchange by two twisted banking interest opposed. But the deposits in the pioneer bank at Ruthwell, which in the first year, 1810, amounted to only f151 rose in the fourth year to 1922, and, mean time, the generous idea was being taken up



Premiu	ms Wr	itten	194	- 1	$(\tilde{T}_{i}, \tilde{T}_{i})$	\$134.455.05
Cash in	Banks	and	Office	-	<b>T</b> 1	31,523.24
Assets	-	-	-	-	÷ 1	256,623.09

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JAY E. WHITE, Pres. JOHN WALL. Vice-Pres. F. P. COWDERY, Ass't. Sec. C. W. HICKS. Sec. H. W. HICKS, Treasurer

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C. W. Hicks Jay E. White Ed. P. Smith H. W. Hicks F. H. Myers C. J. Miles John Wall

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