ernmental agency which has ome intestinal fortitude-they held the line in the face of overwhelming pressure from the labor front. Strike or no strike, they preserved the wage stabilization structure. And within a few hours the worst maritime strike in history was settled with a new wage labor policy ruling handed down by reconversion director John Steel. That legendary hero of fiction. That legendary hero of fiction. The Wile of Monte Cristo, The beautiful woman he married. In the film, Paris is ravaged by the plague. There are three part-new pattern whereby private in how only do not cure the plague dustry can deal directly with labor without going before the Wage Stabilization Board. The workers got their increase, ship the perfect of police, Charles Din-to Wage Stabilization Board. The workers got of the in their hearliess plans by Monte Cristo. Trated in their heartless plans by Monte Cristo. But the Count, portrayed by Martin Kosleck, had been wound the increase. So far, so good.

Opposite Buick Garage New and Used Phonograph Records for Sale 1-24-tfc

Blue Ridge Music Co. Opposite Buick Garage Martin Kosleck, nad Deen would ed in the hand, so that he dared not show himself in Paris until it had healed else he would have It had healed, else he would have been inentified as the heroic fig-ure known as "The Avenger," who thwarts their schemes. His beautiful young wife, Haydee, played by Lenore Aubert, dis-guises herself as "The Avenger" and carries on the work of the Count

Try BISMAREX

for Acid Indigestion. Insist on genuine BISMAREX and refuse other so-called Antiacid Powders, recommended to be "just as good." BISMA-REX is sold in Watauga county at

Boone Drug Co. The REXALL Store

One by one the three partners are hunted by Monte Cristo's wife and loyal followers, but not without great danger for Haydee. When she finally is placed in a dungeon and later rescued in thrilling fashion by the count, the picture reaches a high climax.

The paving stones on the porch at Mount Vernon were imported from England by George Washngton.

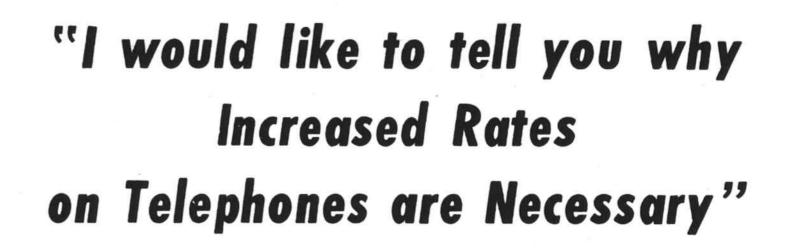
SAY, MOTHER!

ount

Do you need a PIANO for the little daughter? . . . We have it!

Yes, we have plenty of the things you can get anywhere else and our share of the SHORT ITEMS, TOO!

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Total jobs in industry are set at 39,828,000.

Today, more than ever before, North Carolina needs adequate, dependable telephone service, and it is our purpose to provide it. We are now furnishing more service to North Carolinians than at any other time in our history.

Both local and long distance calls have reached an all time high for this state and more and more people want telephones. Since the first of the year, we have installed 36,000 new telephones. But we still have 23,000 orders on hand. Our study of the state's growth indicates that the demand for more service from present as well as new customers will continue to increase.

invested in the state. Today our earning rate is only 2.71 per cent. This rate reflects the latest wage increases and does not include any possible tax refund that may be available this year only on 1944 federal income taxes. Southern Bell's earnings are today the lowest in history.

Nevertheless, the Company is going ahead with a huge expansion program. We are preparing to spend about \$40,-000,000 in the next five years on construction work to improve and expand telephone service in North Carolina. We must proceed with this construction work, despite high costs, in order to meet demands for service.



HEAT with WOOD

Downdraft WOOD BURNER

+ ENJOY 24-HOUR CONTROLLED HEAT ★ BUILD BUT ONE FIRE A SEASON-No Fires to Build On Cold Mornings REMOVE ASHES ON AVERAGE OF ONLY 3 TIMES MONTHLY

Insist on the Downdraft ASHLEY—it's PATENTED. This thermostati-cally controlled wood burning heater saves up to 50% and more on fuel costs, write many Ashley users. Clean, less soot and dirt. Over 3,500 retailed in one city and trading area—truly a sensation. Now in our 16th year. See your local Ashley dealer today or write for his name.

ASHLEY AUTOMATIC WOOD STOVE COMPANY Columbia, S. C.

Buy an

I wish to thank the people who supported me in the recent Republican Convention for County Commissioner. Although I did not win I am still a Republican and am 100 per cent behind the Republican ticket.



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Also Cinder Lintels made to order. Call or write for prices.

Elizabethton°-Cinder Block, Inc.

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In order to keep up, we must enlarge our facilities and hire more people, regardless of the fact that construction costs and wages have risen tremendously.

The cost of erecting buildings is up 75 to 100 per cent. The cost of providing telephone facilities is up 45 to 60 per cent, and telephone materials 15 to 25 per cent.

Total payroll costs have increased 196 per cent since 1941. Wages in North Carolina have been raised \$2,311,415 within the past 12 months. This was in keeping with national policies and trends and to assure competent personnel to provide adequate service. We now have 4,300 Southern Bell people in North Carolina. Wages account for about two-thirds of our operating costs.

Although the cost of everything we do to provide service keeps going up, your telephone rates have remained unchanged for many years. Because of this, the amount of money we are paying out is increasing faster than the amount we are taking in, despite a record volume of business. Since 1941, the costs of providing service in North Carolina have climbed 102 per cent, while revenues have increased only 76 per cent.

The rapid advance of costs in comparison with revenues has caused our rate of earnings to go down. In 1941, the Company was earning 5.56 per cent on the amount of money

0

We need improved earnings if we are to meet the increased costs of providing service and if we are to obtain, on reasonable terms, the capital funds necessary to improve and expand our service.

That is the reason we have asked authority to raise rates on business telephones and to charge 5 cents more on most long distance calls within the state.

Current costs indicate a need for greater increases in rates than we are asking. But we hope our operating experience under the new rates will prove them sufficient. Since residence local charges are to remain unchanged, the increased income under the new rates would amount to only 7 per cent of our total North Carolina revenues. In face of the continuously rising costs of providing service, this is moderate.

The State of North Carolina is now in a period of its greatest growth and expansion, a growth that will bring the state more prosperity than it has ever known. Good and effective telephone service is essential to this progress and the Telephone Company must be in a position to supply it.

We believe, therefore, that our request for increased rates is sound and in the public interest.

Carolinas Manas

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SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY INCORPORATED

NO BUSINESS CAN GIVE ADEQUATE SERVICE WITHOUT ADEQUATE EARNINGS