

ABOUT BELL TELEPHONE CO.

Some of the Methods Used by This Company--Extortionate Rates Charged Where They Have the Field.

There are few people who have taken the pains to investigate the Bell Telephone Company's methods. There are fewer newspapers which have taken the time to investigate and give publicity to the facts they know.

Editor Archibald Johnson, of Charity and Children, has the following to say as to the Bell Company and the home companies.

The Stateville landmark makes the surprising statement that the recent farmers' conference in Charlotte at which was exaggerated by at least 500) was promoted and paid for by the Bell Telephone Company. Ordinarily we would pay no attention to such a charge, but the Landmark is always careful of its statements, and coming from such a source we accept it without the least hesitation. Farmers of all people in the world, ought to be the last to lead themselves to the purposes and sharp practices of a corporation that has never even laid claim to the possession of a soul. Is it possible that the "down trodden farmers," the "bottom rail," the victims of the corporations and trusts, have themselves come into collusion with a trust that, when it has swept the fields and crushed opposition, put its greedy hands into the pockets of its patrons and robs them in broad open daylight? We believe the farmers were deceived. We will not believe until forced to do so, that 500 or 300 farmers in North Carolina will allow themselves to be the step-ladder of the Bell Telephone Company.

While we are on the subject of the telephone trust we wish to say that, like Statesville, Thomasville has declared its independence of the Bell, and we think our people are hardly fools enough to walk into the enticing traps that are laid for their unwary feet. We have a telephone company composed of our people. The price is \$1 per month for residence. If we were in the clutches of the Bell does anybody think we would get our service at any such reasonable rates? And the service we get is reasonable. Occasionally "Central" is a little slow and deaf, to be sure, and we begin to feel around for the axe, but on the whole we have no real reason to complain. We pity our neighbors who have no protection from the rascals of the Bell Telephone Company, for in our judgment none of the great trusts we are in the habit of abusing will compare in rapacity and greed with the Bell people. We do hope the Landmark, usually so accurate and careful, is mistaken this time in regard to the farmers' conference, but we have seen no denial of the charge.

Among the Raleigh visitors were Mesdames G. H. Dortch, James McKee, William Little, Misses Annie Duncan, Dee Duncan, Annie Burton, Lucy Haywood, Mary Grimes Cowper, Lucinda Little, Annie Morrell, Messrs. J. A. Duncan, G. W. and Edwin Mordecai, J. W. Bryan, James McKimmon, Henry McKee, Albert and Burke Little, William Little and Phil Sasser. "Tom Duck," the family servant, also came.

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United States Marshal J. M. Millikan sent his resignation to Attorney General Wickersham last week. Judge Boyd has appointed Mr. Millikan as Clerk of the United States District Court to succeed S. L. Trogdon resigned, at Greensboro. Mr. Millikan has served nearly twelve years as Marshal of the Western District. Mr. Trogdon has served 18 years as Clerk of the United States Court. The Courier learned from a private source more than a month ago that Mr. Millikan would be appointed Clerk of the Court to succeed Mr. Trogdon and gave the information to the public through the columns of the Courier the first of any newspaper in the state.

The income of the Clerk is about five thousand dollars a year, practically the same as the salary of the Marshal of the district.

Express Law Sustained
The Supreme Court of Nebraska has held that the states have the right to regulate express charges under the statute in that state. This case followed a flat out of 25 per cent on rates in that State under statute giving the Railroad commission power to regulate the rates of public service corporations.

Capt. F. A. Bean, of Randolph county, says the Salisbury Post, was in Salisbury last Wednesday. Mr. Bean is one of the smallest men in the state. He is only slightly taller than Maj. Mertz, Salisbury's little man. Mr. Bean and the Major are warm friends. Mr. Bean was born near Bean's Mill in Pleasant Grove township.

Miss John Upright, of Iredell county, committed suicide on September 22nd, by drinking laudanum. She and her husband frequently quarreled and it is believed that in a fit of anger she drank the fatal drug.

And now comes the "corner" in cotton yarn, engineered by Patton, the wheat king and Duke the tobacco man. This means higher prices for yarn stockings and incidentally cotton will come in for its share of manipulation.

It was only last week that the news of the elopement of Miss Mattie Surratt and Mr. Vance Kimball was announced to friends. Miss Surratt, who is the daughter of Squire W. M. C. Surratt, had gone to Albemarle to visit relatives, and there the groom joined her and together they went to South Carolina where they were married. We wish them the happiest life possible. They will live in High Point.

A Wireless Station.
The Government is to build a new wireless telegraph station with a radius of 3,000 miles. The station will be erected in or near Washington, D. C. The station will be 600 feet high and will be built of steel and concrete. Communication can be had from the station with vessels in the Caribbean sea and in nearly every part of the West Indies.

Results of the Storm.
The death loss as the result of storms on the Gulf coast last week has reached between 300 and 400. In some places there is great want and supplies are being rushed to the stricken district. There is danger of famine in some sections.

In Louisiana, lower Mississippi and Alabama two-thirds of the cotton crop is lost, and one-third of the rice and sugar crop is lost.

Lower Montana and Wyoming are great sheep and cattle raising states, and in passing through one sees the cowboy in his field of activity. If his may be called an active life. I would think it a very lonely one as he goes out on the ranches with a covered wagon with provisions enough for two weeks, and the only companions his dog and the sheep. His duties consist of following and watching the sheep as they graze out (from the wagon) in

Mr. R. C. Kelly Marries Popular Durham Young Lady.

The Durham Herald of the 23rd says:

The marriage yesterday afternoon of Miss Ellen Mordecai, of this city, and Mr. R. C. Kelly, of Ashboro, was a home wedding of simplest ceremony and withal, entirely beautiful.

The event had been unheralded, being without cards and the barest newspaper mention. It was to the liking of those interested. In the ceremony the same sentiment was observed, only those commonly concerned participating and it lacked not an element of impressiveness.

The Episcopal ceremony, read by Rev. S. S. Bost, rector of St. Philip's church, was used. In the parlor simply decorated in evergreens, the couple came, the bride with her father, Prof. S. F. Mordecai, who gave her away. The ring ceremony was employed and during the ceremony there was an unusually sweet feature exemplified when Mrs. Mordecai, the grandmother of the bride, held the bridal bouquet while her obligation was recited. The only semblance of a bridesmaid, was this happy, grand old lady of ninety years who served her granddaughter in such affectionate style.

Looking on with a careful interest was the Trinity faculty, almost in a body. Professor Mordecai, dean of the law school, is one of the favorites of the school, and leading from her home to his own in Ashboro was the young man who is perhaps the best law student who has taken his degree from Trinity.

The bride is known well here and in Raleigh where she has many friends and relatives of state prominence. She is more than attractive or charming. She is the impersonation of fine parentage, and all that they might wish her. She weds the promising attorney, the partner of Solicitor W. C. Hammer, of Ashboro, and an honored son of Trinity, a son of Rev. Dr. Kelly, Presiding Elder of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, district.

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COURIER REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELOGUE

Irrigation Projects in the Great Northwest--Large Herds of Sheep in Montana and Wyoming--The White Pine Forests of Idaho--Progressive Spokane--Yakima in the Famous Yakima Valley.

Before leaving Billings, Montana, which is a typical mountain town, the subject of irrigation must not be overlooked, for out of the old arid wastes of millions of acres of land, flecked with the dusty green of the sage brush, have come wonderful orchards, berry fields, truck gardens and fields of golden grains and waving grasses. Irrigation is a comparatively new scheme, but certainly a very wonderful one--it is the artificial application of water to the soil, made necessary because of rainfall insufficient for agricultural purposes. It was only when the pioneers traveling west in search of unoccupied territory, reached a region in which nothing could grow without water, that irrigation streams were turned upon the desert, which readily responding to the beneficent influence, soon began to blossom like the proverbial rose. Western people claim that irrigation will supplement the rainfall, and do much more for growing crops than rain, as the natural element gives nothing except moisture, while the waters from the streams which constantly eat away the mountains and foothills supply new life principles in the form of rich aluminum from the decaying rocks and vegetation of the uplands. The Billings Land and Irrigation Company owns a tract of land comprising 25,000 acres east of Billings and extending along the Yellowstone river for about twenty miles. Water is carried in canals, tunnels, etc., from the river to all parts of this land, and it is sold with water right from \$50 per acre up. Before 1905, when water was first delivered to a part of this tract, there were no settlers, today ten to fifteen thousand acres have been settled on in tracts of from 80 to 160 acres.

Cow-Girl Life--Young Lady Rancher.
A young lady, whose father is a member of the National Editorial Association, and who herself has attended the meetings from time to time met our party at Billings and went to the next station on our train. She had gone out there with three friends, two other young ladies and a gentleman. Each had taken up a claim and had built homes in corners of claims in order to be near together. She was very enthusiastic over her venture and took great interest in telling us about her sheep, cows, chickens, etc. She has her own riding horse and led a cow-girl life. When one takes up a claim they have to live on it for fourteen months, and at the end of that time they may dispose of it if they choose.

Sugar Beet Industry.
There is a big sugar mill at Billings, and beets which are raised by the millions on those irrigated farms, are taken there and made into sugar. One farmer near Billings, had one hundred acres in beets and averaged eighteen tons to the acre and sold them at \$5 a ton. This was \$90 an acre, or \$9,000 for the crop. Alfalfa is a never-failing crop and is good for three cuttings each season. Potatoes are a wonderfully prolific crop, and the Yellowstone valley promises to become one of the greatest potato sections in the United States.

Sheep and Cattle Raising.
Lower Montana and Wyoming are great sheep and cattle raising states, and in passing through one sees the cowboy in his field of activity. If his may be called an active life. I would think it a very lonely one as he goes out on the ranches with a covered wagon with provisions enough for two weeks, and the only companions his dog and the sheep. His duties consist of following and watching the sheep as they graze out (from the wagon) in

the morning until about noon when they lie down and rest and chew their cuds. Then about two o'clock he gets them up and starts them back for the night. In about two weeks the camp mover comes along and helps him move three or four miles on.

Some of the wool-growers in these states own or control from 50,000 to 100,000 sheep. These big flocks are divided up and cared for as I have explained above. When shearing time comes the bands are driven in and shorn. The wool is sacked and hauled to nearest station and shipped. These ranch wools are usually known as Western wool and are quoted generally by the name of the State in which they are raised, such as Wyoming, Montana and Utah wools. They all have characteristics that distinguish them, owing to the soil, climate and ranch conditions.

Traveling through northwestern Montana we had beautiful scenery, mountains towering high, covered with spruce and white pine. A part of the time three engines, two in front and one behind were carrying our special. Butte, the home of Senator Clark, was passed very early in the morning, and the hill, which is said to be the richest hill in the world on account of its copper, was pointed out.

Two Japs Killed Near Garrison.
Near Garrison our train stopped suddenly, and from the window we saw different passengers hurrying back and in a little while some one said, "We've killed two Japs." Our train came out of a tunnel around a curve, and about this time a freight train came along going East. The Japs, who were working on the track, stepped out of the way of the freight over our track and were instantly killed. About a hundred Japs were working on the section and they assembled around the dead bodies and showed much sorrow. The section master soon came and had bushes cut and put over bodies until the coroner could come. We resumed our journey with a feeling of regret.

Missoula, the Home of State University.
The Montana State University is at Missoula. It is surrounded by verdant hills and snow-capped mountains. Near it flows the Hellgate river, which flows along by the side of the railroad for many miles and finally goes on to help the great Columbia. Missoula was a place of especial interest just at this time, as people were coming in there on almost every train to register for land claims. Some of our party paid one dollar and registered and may get valuable claims. We passed two other places open for registration. At one place a veteran of the Civil War had filled out his application and registered for land. He said:

"I decided to take a chance at winning a homestead for my wife, who is quite young yet, just 77 years old. My wife and I will move to the homestead if we are successful in the drawing."

The aged applicant said he was in the prime of life and that he would not commute at the end of 14 months.

Northern Idaho--White Pine Forests.

A little further on we crossed the boundary line between Montana and Idaho, and passed through the Flathead Indian Reservation. We saw several Indian teepees and numbers of Indians riding on horseback dressed in native garb.

Following the rocky shores of Lake Pend Oreille (pronounced pon-de-ray) for miles we were able to see the magnificent scenery which vies with the Alps in grandeur. The lake is fifty-five miles long and varies in width from two to twenty miles.

All kinds of fish are found in the lake, and it is a great retreat for sportsmen. Through this, the northern part of Idaho, are the vast white pine forests, which are said to be the greatest virgin white pine forests now in existence.

Spokane, Interesting Place--Beautiful Homes.

Spokane is most picturesquely located, the Spokane river flowing over a series of terraces in the heart of the city, falling a distance of 132 feet within a quarter of a mile. Immediately on our arrival a party of us went to the Spokane Hotel, which is on a par with the Waldorf Astoria both in beauty and price. After dinner (dinner in that country is served at 6 o'clock in the evening as it is in the North and East) we assembled at the station where a reception committee from the Chamber of Commerce met us and took us on trolley cars over the city. Spokane (with the accent on the latter part and pronounced "Spocan") has many beautiful homes and many of them have rock foundations and fences made from rocks which are taken in getting a level side on which to build.

Architecture in Spokane was the most varied I have ever seen in any city. Some homes were colonial in effect, others bungalows, and in fact every style imaginable. The car ride ended at the Amusement Park, at which place our badges admitted us to everything from the old mill to the circular swing. We were fortunate in meeting with a lady who had spent a great deal of time in the South, and she expressed herself as "loving Southern people." She was nice to our party of four, and when refreshment time came not only ministered to our needs there, but provided us with lunch to carry along. These things are appreciated even more a long way from home.

After a very pleasant evening and fine impressions of Spokane, a young city with a population of 125,000, we boarded our train and left for

North Yakima in the Famous Yakima Valley.
Arriving there at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning after passing through some of the fine agricultural sections, where irrigation has made everything to grow luxuriantly. Citizens met the party at the station with automobiles and took us over the city. It was my good fortune to be assigned, with my friend, an old schoolmate, by the way, to a young lady who owned her own machine. She had a lady friend with her, and both owned fruit ranches two to three miles from town. The young lady with her two sisters had spent some time in Alaska, and in looking for a suitable place for a home bought twenty acres of irrigated land, planted in fruit trees, three miles from Yakima and paid \$12-50 per acre. They are now building a magnificent stone house. The elderly lady insisted on taking us around by her fruit ranch (we would say orchards, but the people in that country say fruit ranch, so, "when people are in Rome they do as Romans"). The trees on this ranch were bearing, and for fear that some one will think I have been incooled with the spirit of exaggeration, which would be in keeping with everything in the great northwest, I am neither going to try to give an estimate of the quantity nor quality of the fruit. Suffice it to say that limbs loaded with luscious cherries were broken for us, also apples galore. Irrigation has made Yakima valley the pride of Washington State. There they claim to produce everything in great abundance, but in superior flavor. Men who have had money to invest have gone there and bought lands with water right, set out fruit trees and then sell at a price greatly in advance of paying price.

At the station we were met by Mr. W. A. Steele, of Seattle, who had come up to meet the party and announce plans, etc. He had practically everything in charge and managed everything so well

that we had nothing to look after ourselves.

A few hours' run brought us to Seattle, and at the station we were greeted by editorial friends from Washington, Oregon and California. The trip across the continent, which took about six days steady travel, was ended, and there we were in Seattle, about which place so much has been said during the past year, but which place I shall tell you about next week.

MRS. W. C. HAMMER.

General News Items.

The Moon which full yesterday was the harvest Moon, the brightest of the year.

Asheville had a 4 in. thermometer registering at 31 last Saturday.

President Taft made a speech to the Mormons, last week, in their big temple at Salt Lake City.

Nine dwellings were burned at Spencer, last Friday. Loss about \$8,000, with about \$5,000 insurance.

In Taft's swing around the circle he is not meeting with public favor as was expected.

Charlie Pendergrass was seriously and probably fatally cut by Joe Williams in Caldwell county last week.

Mr. Reuben Holmes, of Salisbury, is to be married to Miss Francis Logan Lyon, of Greensboro, on October 7th.

The recent floods in Northern Mexico destroyed about 3,000 lives and millions of dollars worth of property.

There are so many prisoners on the Anson county chain gang that the authorities are puzzled to take care of them.

Ex-Speaker E. J. Justice who recently had an operation performed at Rochester, Minn., following a long illness, is convalescing.

Governor Kitchin granted five pardons last week and refused five others. None of the pardons were in this judicial district.

A contract has been made for an airport to make daily flights at the Rowan county fair beginning October 20th.

Bishop James Atkins, of this State, is presiding over the Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, at Portland, Oregon, this week.

A 14-year-old son of Grant Craig, in Caldwell county, was kicked by a mule while he was feeding the stock one day last week and seriously injured.

Bill Baldwin, who shot and killed P. H. Miller at Blowing Rock, July 6, was found guilty of murder in the first degree in Mitchell county last week.

A new winter resort is to be established at the famous Carolina Springs, in Rockingham county, and the purpose of the owner is to make it rival Pinehurst.

It is understood that Chief Clerk, J. M. Bailey, will be acting U. S. Marshal pending the appointment of a successor to Marshal J. M. Millikan.

A Confederate Monument to cost \$5,500 is to be erected in the National Cemetery, at Fort Delaware, to the memory of the prisoners of war who died there.

Tom Lewallen, a youngster in Winston Salem, was thrown from a horse last week and badly bruised. His skull was so fractured that it was thought he would not recover.

W. G. Gregson formerly a citizen of this place has bought the Jeys farm in the Northern part of Sperry and will make it his home. Mr. Jeys will move to South Carolina.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Durham, N. C., has sued the delinquent subscribers to their building fund, after having failed to collect the money in any other way.

At the Annual Meeting of the Confederate Veterans of High Point, last Saturday, the following officers were elected: Commander, J. Matt Sechrist; Adjutant and Secretary, J. D. Paylor; Chaplain, J. B. Richardson.