

TELEPHONE COMPANY PREPARED TO SUBMIT PROPOSITION FOR NEW EXCHANGE TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT

Assistant General Manager Crews in Interview With The Citizen Outlines Plans Which Have Now Been Perfected--Asheville's City Officials Will be Presented With Proposition of the Company

PRESENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM TO BE WIPED OUT OF EXISTENCE

If the City Fathers Accept the Proposition, the Existing Telephone Exchange, Fittings, Wires, Poles, Cables, and All Present Appliances Will be Relegated to the Junk Pile for All Time

The Citizen learns that the Asheville Telephone and Telegraph company will on Friday night submit to the board of aldermen a proposition looking to the erection in Asheville at once of a telephone system equal to any in the world.

A representative of The Citizen called upon Mr. J. W. Crews, assistant general manager of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph company, and a director in the Asheville Telephone and Telegraph company, yesterday and asked him the nature of the proposition which would be submitted. Mr. Crews frankly stated the company's position. He said:

"It is recognized by the officials of the Asheville Telephone and Telegraph company that the company's plant has deteriorated more rapidly than was anticipated, and in order to give the people of Asheville the service contemplated by its franchise, the company must do one of two things. Either it must expend some ten or twelve thousand dollars in betterments on the existing plant to enable the company to comply fully with all of its franchise obligations to the public of Asheville, or it must expend not less than \$125,000 in the erection and installation of a thoroughly modern and up to date telephone system, equal in all respects to the very best in the world. The new system would mean the construction immediately of a handsome building which would be an ornament to the city, and which would be devoted exclusively to telephone purposes, underground wires and a central energy common battery system embracing all the latest improvements known to the present state of the art.

"It has been a matter of very grave concern to the directors of the company as to which course should be adopted. On the one hand, the ten or twelve thousand dollars which would be necessarily expended for betterments on the present plant would have to be thrown away in about three years, the time at which the company is required under its franchise to install an underground system. On the other hand, the interest on the \$125,000 which would be required to construct the new system would be \$7,500 per annum, or about \$22,500 for the three years remaining of the five-year period within which the company is permitted by its franchise to operate the present plant, besides the depreciation during this term upon the new plant, which would not be less than \$15,000. As a cold-blooded business proposition, therefore, it would seem that the telephone company could far better afford to throw away \$10,000 or \$12,000 in betterments to the existing plant than to lose over \$30,000 in interest and depreciation charges on a new plant.

"There is another consideration, however, which appeals to the officials of the company with a great deal of force. The company sincerely desires to do good with the Asheville public that it will have the friendship and good will of its patrons to which it deems itself entitled, and the company is willing to make any reasonable sacrifice within its power to attain this desired end.

INFERNAL MACHINE IN CIGAR BOX IS RECEIVED BY A NEW YORK POLICEMAN

New York, Aug. 21.—Guncotton enough to kill a man, arranged in an infernal machine and disguised as a gift cigar box, was received today by Precinct Captain Miles O'Reilly. This is the third deadly explosive under similar construction discovered in the last four days, the other two having been received last Friday by Jacob Schiff, the banker, and M. Guggenheim's sons.

This is the consideration which moves the company to propose to the mayor and the board of aldermen of the city that it will at once set about erecting the building and installing the system described above as rapidly as men and money can accomplish these results. The company is willing to do all this without any modification whatever of the rate clause in its franchise so far as the same applies to EXISTING SUBSCRIBERS, and the only concession, which the company asks is that the existing rate agreement shall be held not to apply to persons becoming subscribers AFTER THE NEW PLANT IS INSTALLED. In other words, persons who are now subscribers, or who MAY BECOME SUBSCRIBERS BEFORE THE NEW PLANT IS INSTALLED, would have the benefit of the five-year limitation of rates contained in the company's franchise for the remaining period thereof; and new subscribers after the installation of the new system would be charged such rates as are charged in cities of similar size and under similar conditions. The proposed rates to such new subscribers would be the same as are charged in Greensboro, Charlotte and Wilmington, cities with approximately the same number of subscribers and equipped with underground, central energy systems.

"The reason for making this a condition to the immediate installation of the new system is that the company would furnish the new and improved service to its existing subscribers at a loss under the rates named under its franchise, and this being entirely outside and beyond any obligation which the subscribers or to the city, it feels that it cannot be reasonably asked to furnish the new service to new subscribers at a loss.

"Neither the Asheville Telephone and Telegraph company nor its predecessor, the Asheville Telephone company, has ever recalled a dollar by way of dividends on the money invested in the telephone business in Asheville, and under the proposition which the company will submit to the city fathers the company will be compelled to place a second mortgage of \$100,000 or more on its property, which will stand as a new and very formidable barrier to the realization of any future profits upon the money already invested.

"The company has the assurance of being able to secure all the money required for the new plant, provided only this slight concession can be secured. We cannot believe that the city will fail to recognize this as a highly advantageous arrangement for the city and for the telephone using public. If, however, the city fathers should take a different view of the matter there would be nothing for the company to do except to maintain the present plant until the expiration of the five-year period."

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 21.—Julius T. Lansburg, Jr., a conductor of the Seaboard Air Line railroad, was shot by William Sims at Ellaby, Bryan county, today, and died while being brought to this city. Sims escaped.

HYDE HAS LAUGH OVER THE REPORTS

Former Statistician Says Estimates Will Become Laughing Stock of the World

London, Aug. 21.—John Hyde, former statistician of the United States department of agriculture, who at present is in London, has been under the care of a physician for several weeks and is still prohibited by his physician from attending to business.

To the Associated Press tonight he said: "I have just seen for the first time the revised cotton average report, issued by the United States department of agriculture on July 26. To this statement I give unqualified denial and assert that the most trustworthy various sets of figures on which the reports June 2, are based afforded the most ample warrant for my estimate.

"It is only by an entire disregard of the reports of the country and township correspondents that the department's average reports can be presented from once more becoming the laughing stock of the world. When these correspondents report upon the acreage or upon the size of the crop in bales their reports are absolutely worthless.

TAFT ENJOYS BULL FIGHT WITH MOROS

Jolo, Aug. 18.—Via Manila, Aug. 21.—(delayed in transmission.)—Secretary Taft and party arrived here at noon and immediately proceeded to the parade grounds to witness an elaborate program arranged for his entertainment. The Sultan of Jolo, with his retinue, and other Moro dignitaries, occupied seats on the grandstand along with Secretary Taft and Miss Roosevelt.

In the afternoon there were carabao and bull fights of an amusing but not bloodthirsty character. Secretary Taft and Miss Roosevelt were presented with many Moro presents by the sultan, who offered his hand in marriage to Miss Roosevelt and would make here suitor of the Sulu archipelago, saying that his people desired her to remain among them.

BOILERS WERE NOT DEFECTIVE

Bennington Board of Inquiry Makes a Return of Its Findings

ENSIGN WADE WILL BE COURT-MARTIALED

He Alone of Those Responsible for Accident Survived Explosion

Washington, Aug. 21.—Secretary Bonaparte today made public the proceedings of the court of inquiry which investigated the explosion on the gunboat Bennington at San Diego, Cal., July 21. The findings were a complete surprise, for they at once set at rest the stories that had been circulated to the effect that the Bennington's boilers, and perhaps those of other naval vessels of the same age, were defective. As a matter of fact the court found that the explosion resulted from the closing of a valve which connected the exploded boiler with its steam gauge, so that the pressure of that boiler may have been several hundred pounds to the square inch when the accident occurred.

While praise was accorded to the officers and ship's company for their conduct during the harrowing scenes following the accident, the officer and men who were responsible, in the opinion of the court, are pointed out and court-martial proceedings suggested in the case of the only one of them surviving, Ensign Charles T. Wade.

The finding of the court says in part: "The court is of the opinion that the explosion was caused by excessive steam pressure in boiler 'B,' which came about, first by shutting the valve connecting the boiler with the steam gauge, instead of the valve on the air cock alone, as was intended, so that the steam gauge did not indicate the pressure in the boiler; second by unusual and heavy firing in the boiler to get up a pressure which the gauge failed to show; third by the failure of the sentinel and safety valves to lift at the pressure for which they were set, and the pressure increased without relief until it was beyond the strength of the boiler, which gave way in the weakest part."

ANOTHER CASE

Jackson, Miss., Aug. 21.—Secretary Hunter, of the state board of health, received a report today from Mississippi City health authorities saying that one new case of yellow fever appeared there today.

CRISIS TO BE REACHED TODAY

Presentation of Protocols Will Force All Hands to the Table

JAPS AND RUSSIANS SEEM PESSIMISTIC

Have Little Hope of Reaching any Agreement at the Eleventh Hour

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 21.—The results of President Roosevelt's effort to save the peace conference from failure remains in suspense. No direct reply to the president's proposition, communicated by Mr. Witte yesterday, has come from Emperor Nicholas tonight, but other advices received from St. Petersburg indicated that the emperor and his councilors are unshaken in their determination neither to cede territory nor pay war tributes. What the president is doing on the Japanese side remains as deep a mystery as ever. Little light is shed upon the visits of Baron Kaneko to Oyster Bay. The Japanese do not even admit that he is their medium of communication with the president. They go no further than to reiterate that Mr. Roosevelt understands their position and that they have the fullest confidence in him. They show not the slightest indication that they have in any wise changed their position or are prepared to yield more than they were last Friday, when the plenipotentiaries adjourned until tomorrow.

Crisis Today

If Mr. Witte does not receive fresh instructions before 3 o'clock tomorrow evening, when the conference is resumed, the situation will be exactly what it was when the adjournment was taken on Friday. Both sides will present their protocols for signature. One side or the other must then make a move or all that will be left will be to go through the formality of signing a brief final protocol certifying that they have reached the parting of the ways and to bid each other farewell. But such an abrupt termination is hardly anticipated. Baron Komura, if Mr. Witte has nothing to propose, might produce Japan's irreducible minimum, or the final concessions she is prepared to make or formally propose collective consideration of all the articles still in dispute. Any move on either side would involve another adjournment or such an adjournment might be frankly proposed by Mr. Witte, as he would not be guilty of the discourtesy of allowing the conference to go to pieces before receiving a specific reply to President Roosevelt's proposition.

Witte Sympathizes

There is warrant for the statement that Mr. Witte personally sympathizes with the president's proposition, no

SUDDEN CHANGE FOR THE WORSE IS NOTICABLE IN YELLOW FEVER REPORTS

Number of Deaths and Disease Centers are Greatly Increased

CASE OF FEVER FOUND AMONG JAIL INMATES

Panic in Criminal Court Where Italian Victim is Placed on Trial

matter how it may be regarded by his imperial master and the latter's advisers. The spirit of all the advices received has been such as to almost preclude the hope of an eleventh hour change.

Japs Without Hope. Among the Japanese tonight no note of hope is sounded. With genuine reluctance they seem almost resigned to the shipwreck of the conference. They declare that their position is unchanged and they speak of renewing the war with a snap of their eyes which speaks volumes for their confidence in the success of Oyama when the word is given to advance.

"We have fought for a lasting peace," said one of the attaches closest to the chiefs. "We have been victorious. If Russia came to Portsmouth unprepared to pay the price of defeat all is over. We do not believe that the president considers our terms unreasonable. He knows Japan's position as accurately as does either of the Japanese plenipotentiaries. We don't believe he will even ask us to weaken at the last moment and yield, even to save the negotiations."

YESTERDAY'S RECORD. New Orleans, Aug. 21.—Official report to 6 p. m.: New cases, 61. Total to date, 1,448. Deaths, 9. Total, 205. New foci, 16. Total, 322. Cases under treatment, 328.

DATE FOR I. F. M. A. CONVENTION FIXED

The manufacturers of fertilizers all over the country are preparing for the meeting of the International Fertilizer Manufacturers association which will be held at Kenilworth Inn near this city for five days, beginning October 10. The attendance at the meeting will doubtless be large as an interesting program will be presented and members of the association from Europe, Canada and the United States will attend.

The association includes among its members practically every large fertilizer manufacturing company in the world and few of the companies will be without representatives at the meeting. The attendance will be between 150 and 200. The selection of Kenilworth Inn for the meeting is another of the many recognitions Asheville is receiving as an ideal place for the holding of conventions of all kinds.

GRAND JURY WILL ASK ABOUT BANK ACCOUNT

Washington, Aug. 21.—In connection with the cotton leak investigation by the grand jury here it was asserted today that an effort was being made to secure from local banking institutions, the financial standing of Edwin S. Holmes, the dismissed associate statistician of the agricultural department, and of former Chief Statistician John D. Hyde. So far the banks have refused to divulge the character of their business relations, if any, with the two men, and it is understood that unless they do without delay the bank officials will be duly subpoenaed before the grand jury and required to furnish the information desired.

ENGINEER KILLED IN ENGINE COLLISION

(Special to The Citizen.) Spencer, N. C., Aug. 21.—Engineer H. Bulloch, age 40 years, of Spencer, was instantly killed between Salisbury and Spencer at 10 o'clock tonight in a collision between a runaway locomotive and the engine which he himself was running. J. W. Freeman, fireman on the engine with Mr. Bulloch, narrowly escaped death by jumping from the cab window and sustained only a few slight bruises. Without a moment's warning the fiery monster dashed into the shifter at the rate of 60 miles per hour and the crash between the two engines was one of the most terrific ever seen here. Bulloch was caught between the tender and cab and was frightfully mangled and mangled. An hour after the accident a second engine was turned loose on the Spencer yard by some unknown miscreant and after running one half mile was turned over into the ditch.

STREET CAR CRUSHED BENEATH TRAIN NINE BEING KILLED AND SEVERAL HURT

Butte, Mont., Aug. 21.—Nine persons were killed, one fatally injured and about thirteen more or less injured in a collision between a street car filled with returning merry-makers from Columbia gardens and a freight train on the Butte, Anaconda & Pacific railroad last night. Loaded with passengers, many of them women and girls, the car returning from Columbia Gardens was struck by the engine of a freight train near the Butte, Anaconda & Pacific depot, and crushed beneath the weight of one freight car, killing nine and fatally injuring one and perhaps another. Numbers were more or less hurt and taken to their homes for treatment. Their names being unobtainable at this time, the street car was approaching from the south. Conductor Howland says he was on top of the train with a lantern and warned the motorman, but the latter put on speed and attempted to cross ahead of the train.



Why this joyous joy of Mr. You-N-Mee in both these pictures? Well, if you ever went on a vacation and was quitting one, you'd know.