

TELEPHONE COMPANY WITHDRAWS ITS PROPOSITION AND WILL PROCEED AT ONCE TO INSTALL A MODERN SYSTEM

Special Telephone Committee of Board of Aldermen Notified That Telephone Company Will Not Await Its Action But Will Proceed at Once to Carry Out Its Plans for Improving System in Asheville.

DECEMBER 1906 IS NAMED AS TIME FOR COMPLETION OF WORK

New \$125,000 Exchange Building Will Be Erected Modern Central Energy Switchboard Will Be Installed and all Telephone Wires in Central Portion of the City Will Be Placed Underground.

The telephone question took a decided turn yesterday afternoon when Mayor Barnard received from President W. T. Gentry of the local company, a communication in which the proposition recently submitted to the board of aldermen is withdrawn and the company's intention to proceed at once with the improvements therein outlined, is stated in positive terms. The letter, which is addressed to the special telephone committee of the board, sets forth that the telephone company has decided to waive the matter of increased rates for improved service and will erect as soon as possible a new \$125,000 exchange building, install a modern central energy switchboard and place the telephone wires in the central portion of the city underground. The company will not wait until it is compelled to make these changes by the terms of its franchise, but will proceed at once with the work and complete it by the end of next year if not sooner.

The announcement of this intention on the part of the telephone company came as a complete surprise to the members of the telephone committee and seemed to give them no little pleasure as they were relieved of the responsibility of passing on a question that has been perplexing them for some time. Many persons were heard to express an unqualified approval of the company's action which was said to show a real desire to give the people of this city the best telephone service that can be had. The following is the communication sent to the special committee of the board:

"Messrs. S. Lipsky, W. F. Randolph, F. Stickleather and A. S. Barnard, Special Telephone Committee: 'Gentlemen—The hesitation of the board of aldermen in acting, either negatively or affirmatively, upon the proposition heretofore submitted, looking to the construction and installation by this company of a new underground, central energy, telephone system in Asheville, as quickly as the work can be done, convinces the company of the existence within your board of a degree of distrust of the motives actuating the company in the submission of said proposition which we are at a loss to understand. Despite this manifestation of distrust, which we believe to be unwarranted, the company ventures to look forward to a time when it will enjoy such measure of official and popular respect and confidence as the integrity of its motives and intentions warrant. 'In the meantime, the company proposes to show, in a thoroughly practical way, that it does not distrust the board of aldermen. We will therefore proceed at once with the plans for a new building, designed for telephone purposes exclusively, and construct the same as quickly as possible, also with the construction of an underground conduit system, and will order at once one of the latest central energy switchboards, and the reconstruction generally of the plant, and have the new system in operation not later than December 31st, 1906, and earlier than that date unless delayed by causes over which we have no control. 'We beg, therefore, to withdraw our

proposition from further consideration at the present time. (Signed) W. T. GENTRY, Mayor's Statement.

In speaking of the telephone matter last evening Mayor Barnard said: 'The action of the telephone company in withdrawing its proposition as set forth in the letter received by the telephone committee of the board of aldermen this afternoon, renders it unnecessary for the committee to make any report on the same. Mr. Gentry's suggestion that the board of aldermen distrusts the telephone company is not justified by any action the board has taken. The telephone committee regarding the question of too much importance to Asheville and her citizens to be decided without due consideration and a thorough investigation. The committee was unwilling to do anything which might be construed, in the future, as having relieved the telephone company of obligations imposed by its franchise. It should be borne in mind that the franchise requires the company to place its wires underground within five years after its passage, which would be October, 1908, whereas the company had no right to change its present rates until the expiration of five years from January 1, 1904, that is January 1, 1908. It is not apparent, therefore, that an acceptance of the proposition of the telephone company would hold committed the board of aldermen to an increase of rates before the wires were put underground, when by the terms of its franchise the telephone company had to put its wires underground at least three months before the expiration of the present rate period. The board was not ready to do this. 'Mr. Gentry need have no fear. His company will receive fair treatment. The people of Asheville do not expect anything for nothing, but they certainly have a right to demand as much as they pay for. Let the telephone company show that it intends to comply with its contract by giving first-class service. If it cannot do so with the present plant it should put in a new one, and if, after this evidence of good faith, on its part, it loses money and this fact is made to appear to the board of aldermen, no one who knows the board can doubt that adequate relief will be given."

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GOVERNOR GLENN TO SPEAK TODAY

Boston, Sept. 12.—Governor R. B. Glenn of North Carolina arrived in Boston today in a private car attached to the Federal Express. The governor primarily will make an address at Concord tomorrow and during his brief visit he will be the guest of Governor McLane. Accompanying Governor Glenn is Judge Norman Kettrell, a prominent resident of Texas, who represents the chief executive of that state. This evening Governor Glenn and Judge Kettrell were guests at the Puritan club. Later the gubernatorial party boarded a train for the New Hampshire capital.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS IS WARNED TO BE LESS ACTIVE IN POLITICAL MATTERS

Oyster Bay, L. I., Sept. 12.—A report has been received by President Roosevelt from the civil service commission regarding an investigation of charges recently laid against J. E. B. Stuart, collector of customs at Newport News, Va., alleging political activity and undue partisanship in the conduct of his office. When Stuart assumed the duties of his office he found that he had a larger number of deposits than was needed to transact his business. He dismissed several of them. It happened that the men dismissed were Democrats. Commissioner Cooley recently made a report to the president on the charges, and as a result Collector Stuart has been directed that if the business of his office should make necessary the employment of additional assistants he shall reappoint the men recently discharged, if they should desire to return to the government service, and he has been admonished not to be so active or to permit his office force to be so partisan in their political efforts.

CROWDS CHEER THE RUSSIANS

Witte and Rosen Leave for Home Amid Applause of New Yorkers.

WITTE MAKES PROMISE TO AMERICAN JEWS

Says He Will Do Everything in His Power to Help Russian Hebrews.

New York, Sept. 12.—The Russian commissioners who successfully concluded a treaty of peace with the envoys of Japan at Portsmouth, N. H., started on the return to St. Petersburg today, sailing on the Kaiser Wilhelm II. Before leaving the city Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen made a farewell call upon the Japanese diplomats, Baron Komura was unable to see the Russians because of his illness, but through Minister Takahira, he sent them a cordial message of farewell. A big crowd gathered at the dock of the Kaiser Wilhelm in Hoboken to see Mr. Witte, and there was much cheering and handclapping as he went up the gang plank, to which he bowed acknowledgments. He received the newspaper men in his rooms on board the steamer and through Baron Rosen made a statement to those whom he had met, thanking them, saying that "never in his life had it been so forcibly impressed upon him that the pen is mightier than the sword." He then "shook hands with all of them and said good bye."

Before Mr. Witte left he had a conference with Isaac N. Seligman and Oscar Strauss of this city and Adolph Kraus of Chicago. Mr. Seligman said after the conference: "Mr. Witte allowed us to foresee the emancipation of the Jews in Russia and their participation in the government of the empire in the same degree and proportion that other Russian subjects are allowed to participate. We have Mr. Witte's word for it that as far as he himself may be able, everything will be done to give the Jews of Russia their full constitutional rights."

"Appeals continue to come to the governor and state board of health from the country for assistance. Asheville has been in need of help and Governor Blanchard is to send money there, while the wholesale merchants here have contributed a variety of provisions. Tallulah is despondent, but Dr. Chassigne and a staff of nurses reached there today. People continue to leave Lake Providence. Four new cases of fever have appeared at Lafayette Crossing. The Patterson situation is still serious and the community is completely out of funds. President Sanders of the Progressive union announced today that while he was in New York he communicated with Secretary Loeb and learned that President Roosevelt had not cancelled his engagement to visit New Orleans in October. Tulane university and Newcomb college, which were to have been opened on the second of October, have announced a postponement until November 2. News from the country was meagre today. The state board has sent ample assistance to Tallulah, a surgeon and eight nurses being on the scene. Hanson City, two cases; St. Rose, six cases; Patterson plantation, one case; Lafayette, one case."

WANT HELP IN SMALL TOWNS

Appeals for Supplies Received from Many Points in Louisiana.

SITUATION IN CITY IS STILL IMPROVING

Colleges Postpone Date of Opening Roosevelt to Visit City.

YESTERDAY'S RECORD.

New Orleans, Sept. 12.—Report to 6 p. m. today was as follows:
New cases to date..... 43
Total cases to date..... 2,370
Deaths..... 3
New deaths..... 319
New recoveries..... 32
Cases under treatment..... 314
Cases discharged..... 1,737

New Orleans, Sept. 12.—The only name on the death list today of special import is H. S. Douglas, a United States civil engineer, who is stationed at the mouth of the river supervising certain work in progress there.

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NEW YORK LIFE IS IN TROUBLE

Investigation Committee Learns of Some "Shady" Transactions.

UNIQUE PLAN TO KEEP WITHIN LETTER OF LAW

Sold \$800,000 in Bonds One Day and Bought Them Back the Next But One.

New York, Sept. 12.—Selling \$800,000 in bonds one day and buying them back the next but one, a holiday intervention, in order to keep within statements made in the New York Life insurance company's report to the superintendent of insurance, was the sensational disclosure made today at the session of the executive insurance investigation committee. The fact was drawn from Edmund D. Randolph, treasurer of the New York Life insurance company, late in the day, after Attorney Charles E. Hughes, of counsel to the committee, had labored for over an hour to get a direct answer from Mr. Randolph to a direct question. The inquiry had dragged through a mass of figures during almost the entire day, but it was not until near the hour for ending the session that the sensational feature was brought out. Earlier in the day Mr. Randolph had handed Mr. Hughes a schedule of syndicate underwritings and transactions of the New York Life for the last year. This statement was to show, and a footnote to the schedule so stated, that the company had participated in no syndicate transactions that had been closed with a loss. Among these syndicate transactions was the underwriting of the navigation syndicate, of International Mercantile Marine.

Mr. Hughes drew from the witness that there was an aggregate of \$4,000,000 of the New York Life paid J. P. Morgan & Co. on this "joint account." Mr. Hughes then took up a sales item dated December 31, 1903, of \$500,000 of International Mercantile Marine stock. Mr. Randolph, replying to Mr. Hughes, said this sale was made to J. P. Morgan & Co. Mr. Hughes continued his inquiry into the matter and asked: "On January 2, 1904, there is an entry of a purchase of \$500,000. From whom did you buy?" "J. P. Morgan & Co.," he replied. "Why did you sell to J. P. Morgan, then buy from J. P. Morgan & Co. on the next business day?" "Because they desired to reduce it." "Yes, but why then did you buy it back the next business day?" Here Mr. Randolph began to explain and wandered several times from the subject. He was led back by the lawyer, who said: "As a matter of fact there was a re-

port to the superintendent of insurance on December 31, 1903." "Yes." "Then the sole purpose of the transaction was that you might be able to tell the superintendent of insurance that you held only \$2,500,000 of International Mercantile Marine shares?" "The witness hesitated and tried to evade a direct answer, but Mr. Hughes repeated the question until finally Mr. Randolph said "Yes." "There was a momentary hush, followed by a murmur of suppressed excitement."

Neither the city or county officers have any recollection of a man answering to the above description, and it is thought that Young escaped from the penitentiary, where he was sent from some other county probably in Western North Carolina.

SIX HUNDRED KILLED IN EXPLOSION ON FAMOUS JAPANESE BATTLESHIP

Togo's Flagship, the Mikasa, Catches Fire With Awful Result

MAGAZINE EXPLODES AND VESSEL IS SUNK

Rescuing Parties From Near-By Ships Included Among Victims.

Tokio, Sept. 12.—The navy department announced that the battleship Mikasa has been destroyed by fire and the explosion of her magazine caused the loss of 599 lives, including men of other ships who went to the rescue. The fire started from an unknown cause at midnight on Sunday night, September 10. Before the officers could be rescued the fire reached the aft magazine, which exploded, blowing a hole in the port side of the vessel below the water line and causing the ship to sink. An investigation is now being held to determine the cause of the fire. Togo Escapes. Admiral Togo was not on board the Mikasa when the disaster to the battleship occurred. The disaster to the Mikasa has cast a gloom everywhere. The ship was at anchor in Suabo harbor when the fire started at the base of the mainmast at midnight. It spread with great rapidity, exploding the after magazine an hour after the fire had been discovered. The Mikasa sank in shallow water and it is believed the ship can be repaired. Rescuing parties were sent from the various warships in the harbor and there was heavy casualties among them. Various conjectures are current as to the cause of the fire. Some attribute it to an overcharge of electricity. Great relief was felt throughout Japan when it was learned that Admiral Togo was not on board the ship at the time of the disaster. Mikasa's Record. In the battle of the Sea of Japan the Mikasa was the heaviest loser of all the Japanese ships, having 63 killed and wounded. She approached nearer to the Russians than any other battleship. The Mikasa was also the flagship of Admiral Togo after the great naval battle fought off Port Arthur on August 10, 1904, on which occasion the Japanese flagship also suffered the most, but continued in the fighting line. On that occasion the Mikasa had four officers and 29 men killed, six officers and 29 men severely wounded and four officers and 24 men slightly wounded.

ESCAPED CONVICT CAUGHT IN OHIO

Claims to Be Asheville Man who Is Wanted Here for Burglary and Other Crimes.

(Special to The Citizen.) Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 12.—A negro who gave his name as Mun Young, living near Asheville, N. C., was arrested here today on a street car. It is said that the man had with him a sack full of brass, alleged to have been stolen from W. J. Oliver & Co., contractors doing construction work along the line of the Big Four railroad near Cleveland. The man had been in the employ of the firm for about three weeks. During that time brass disappeared with startling regularity, and when Young was seen to board a street car in Cleveland the local police were notified to be on the lookout for him. When he was looked up in the police station he declared that he is wanted in North Carolina on the triple charge of having broken jail, grand larceny and burglary. He said that he had been sentenced to serve six years on the two last named charges, and that after serving four years he made his escape. The local authorities will communicate with the Asheville police regarding this feature of the case.

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GEORGIA ADOPTS NEW REGULATIONS

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 12.—Georgia's state board of health today issued two comprehensive orders relating to the protection of the state from the possibility of infection of yellow fever. Order No. 1 reads as follows: "The Georgia state board of health hereby orders that all railroads and steamboat companies operating in the state of Georgia shall notify their ticket agents, as well as those of connecting lines, not to sell a railroad ticket to any point in Georgia from infected territory except to those persons having a properly certified certificate, signed by a properly authorized health officer that such person has not been in an area infected with yellow fever for ten days." Order No. 2 is as follows: "The Georgia state board of health hereby orders that all railroads operating in Georgia shall provide separate coaches for their through passengers coming from territory infected with yellow fever, and as to all lines entering the city of Atlanta, such coaches shall be carried around the belt line and not allowed to enter the city of Atlanta."

MISSISSIPPI REPORT.

Jackson, Miss., Sept. 12.—The Mississippi yellow fever summary tonight is as follows: Mississippi City, six new cases; Gulfport, one new case; Natchez, one new case and one new focus near original infected area; Vicksburg one new case. No new infected points have been reported in the state.

POT FULL OF GOLD DUG UP BY LABORER CANNOT NOW BE FOUND BY SEARCHERS

Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 12.—An iron pot containing \$50,000 in gold coins, the newest of which was 115 years old, was found on the farm of James Rivers near Chesterfield, S. C., by Tyler Teal, a white laborer, and Will Edwards, a negro, while engaged recently in digging a ditch. The pot was carried to a point two miles away and buried near a creek bank. When, two days later, the finders went after the pot it had mysteriously disappeared. The negro charges that the white man has appropriated the money and has hidden it from him, while Teal declares that the story is all a joke and no pot was unearthed. Edwards sticks to his story and has produced proofs of its genuineness. Detective J. D. Evans, who has associated with him one of the best known detectives in the south, who were employed by the negro, and who have since been working on the case, have secured evidence confirming the discovery of the hidden wealth, but thus far no trace of the gold has been found.



Shades of the Early Explorers—Great Cracking icebergs; what a strange exploring craft! It is announced that a party of explorers will start from Klondike by mules to discover the North Pole. News Item.