

BELL TELEPHONE BUYS CONTROL OF WESTERN UNION

New Corporation Will be Organized to Take Over Stocks of Both Companies

CAPITALIZATION TO BE BILLION DOLLARS

Marks Long Step Toward Monopoly of Long Distance Talking Business

BOSTON, Nov. 16.—A long stride toward the complete control by one corporation of all wire communication in the United States was made today in the acquisition by the American Telephone and Telegraph company of the control of the Western Union Telegraph company.

In order to make the absorption complete, the incorporation of a new billion dollar company, it is said, will be necessary to include the \$592,475,400 of bonds and stock of the American Telephone company, known as the Bell company, and the outstanding \$165,000,000 of bonds and stock of the Western Union.

The acquisition of the necessary stock and voting rights of the Western Union by the Bell company has been in progress for about six months. The work has been conducted quietly and only a sufficient amount to insure control, said to be fifty-one per cent was taken over.

Step For Economy. The officers of the Bell company regard the step as one of economy solely.

They point out that ever since the telephone has had a factor in human life, it has had to compete with the telegraph. Lines have been paralleled and there has been an immense amount of duplication. The officers of the telephone company believe that the merger will save the Bell company \$75,000,000 in new construction which it will also enable utilization at the same time of wires for both telegraphing and telephoning.

The history of the Western Union dates back to before the Civil war but the Bell company is of comparatively recent origin. Both companies pursued the usual method of absorbing smaller companies. The small companies acquired by the Western Union have been lost in oblivion.

DRUGGERY OF ARMY LIFE CAUSE OF INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DESERTERS

Report Shows Nearly Five per Cent. of Entire Enrollment Deserts

CANTEEN ABOLISHED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Continued extensive desertion in the United States army during the last fiscal year forms the leading feature of the annual report of Adjutant General Alingworth concludes that only strict enforcement of severe penalties will diminish materially the practice of taking "French leave" on the part of the soldier.

He regards as rather alarming the fact that the number of desertions during the last fiscal year was greater than in the preceding twelve months. Of the whole number of enlisted men, 4.97 per cent deserted during the last fiscal year while the desertions of the preceding year amounted to 4.59 per cent. General Alingworth says the abolition of the canteen, the monotony of Garrison life the increasing amount of work and steady demand of a soldier, add the ease with which remunerative employment can be obtained in civil life in these prosperous times are causes of the evils mentioned.

The percentage of desertions among the white troops is about ten times greater than among the colored men in the service.

Of the men who deserted during the year, 1,813 were apprehended and 315 surrendered.

On October 15 the actual strength of the army including the Philippines scouts was 81,778, while on the same day one year previously the actual strength was 78,160. On October 15, 1909, there were 7,350 vacancies in the army, compared with 9,558 on the same day of 1908.

NORFOLK DRESSING UP.

NORFOLK Va., Nov. 16.—With Norfolk decorated in flag and hunting everything is in readiness for the opening here tomorrow of the second annual convention of the Atlantic deep waterways convention. The convention will continue for four days the big occasion being the visit of President Taft on Friday.

TELEPHONE LINES OF THIS SECTION FORMING MERGER

Powerful Interests at Work to Complete Combination of Rural Systems With View of Connection With Independent Concerns

The consolidation of the independent telephone companies in this section, comprising the Weaverville Telephone company, the Barnardville Telephone company, the Cherokee Telephone company and the Waynesville Telephone company, is the aim and object of certain powerful interests now working to that end. A Citizen representative in Barnardville yesterday received confirmation of the statement that the companies mentioned had been approached by parties interested in the consolidation. It was learned also that the companies approached had signified their willingness to form an organization which would be mutually beneficial, and would ensure more extensive service than is now possible with single lines. The ultimate object of the combination in connection with the eastern and western independent companies through their toll lines. When perfected the organization will establish exchanges all along the new C. C. and O. railroad, which will doubtless operate its system by telephone.

The moving power in the consolidation is said to be the Stromberg-Carlson Supply company of Chicago. This company has been active in the consolidation of independent farmers' telephone lines in the North and West, and while its representatives would not admit their connection with the company, there is reason for stating that the Stromberg-Carlson people are at least interested in the present movement. The organizers have been in this section for several days.

When Mr. Howland, president of the Weaverville Telephone company and builder of that system, was asked yesterday if his company had been approached by the representatives of the independent merger, he stated that such a proposition had been made to him, and he believed, all the other companies. It was his understanding, he said, that all the independent telephone lines in this section had practically agreed to form one company, with the view of connection with other independent lines. Mr. Howland also stated that similar organizations were being effected in various parts of the

country. Consolidation of this character, he said, had a tendency to improve rural telephone service and was highly beneficial to the farming interests.

WOMAN INDICTED FOR RECEIVING STOLEN MONEY

Warrant Issued for Mrs. Ford on Evidence of Big Four Defaulter

CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 16.—Charles L. Warriner, formerly local treasurer of the Big Four railroad, is in jail tonight and a warrant is out for the arrest of Mrs. Jeanette Stewart Ford on a charge of receiving \$1,000 of the \$643,000 which Warriner is accused of embezzling from the railroad.

The warrant against Mrs. Ford was issued tonight on application of prosecutor Hunt, who was closeted most of the day with Warriner. The former railroad officer informed the prosecutor, it is said, that he had given part of the money abstracted from the railroad to Mrs. Ford and that the last payment was made on October 1.

Warriner appeared in the afternoon at the criminal court and pleaded not guilty of the indictment returned yesterday charging him with embezzlement and grand larceny. His bond was fixed at \$20,000.

The four men who had come to his assistance when he was first arrested did not renew their pledge and Warriner was taken to jail.

EX SECRETARY GAGE TO MARRY WOMAN WHOM HE MADE A THEOSOPHIST

Will Make Wedding Trip to Point Loma to Hear More Mrs. Tingley's Doctrine

SHE IS DIVORCEE

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Nov. 16.—The engagement of former Secretary of the Treasury Lyman J. Gage to Mrs. Ada Ballou, who is young enough to be his daughter is reported here. Mr. Gage is 73 and his fiancée is perhaps less than half that age.

"I do not think Mr. Gage wished it to be known before the ceremony," Mrs. Ballou said when asked about the report. "Have you seen our new home at Point Loma? Isn't it splendid? No, we shall take no honeymoon trip, but shall just settle down on our new home as soon as we are married."

"Mr. Gage has made a Theosophist of me. I knew nothing about it until he began to explain it to me. Now I am a firm believer in the truth of the teachings of Mrs. Tingley, and I shall become a member of the association."

"I am sorry that the secret of my engagement to Mrs. Ballou leaked out, but of course there is no use in crying over spilled milk. As the secret is out it's all right," said Mr. Gage himself. "The date of the wedding has not yet been definitely settled, but will probably be within a month. After we return from our trip we will live at Point Loma, across the bay where our new home is being rapidly finished. The view of the harbor and the city from our place is lovely."

Mr. Gage is very happy and is receiving congratulations from all over the country. Mrs. Ballou is tall and stately, with pale blue eyes, white skin and a mass of glowing red hair. She sings and plays the piano well, and has the reputation of being one of the most fascinating women in the city.

The announcement of the engagement was given out to local newspapers by a strange woman whose identity cannot be discovered.

Mrs. Ballou married a Mr. Crane of Pittsburg about six years ago. She divorced him after a short time

TREASURY OFFICIAL DEMANDS PART OF FINE IMPOSED ON THE TRUST

Has Filed Claim for Share of Two Millions Paid Into Treasury

IS NOW RAISING HOWL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—No official notice will be taken by the treasury department at least for the present of the controversy which has arisen between former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury James B. Reynolds, now a member of the tariff board and Richard Parr, a deputy surveyor attached to the New York customs house.

The merit of the controversy appears to be the desire of Mr. Parr to obtain a moiety of the fine imposed upon the sugar trust for the alleged frauds in the introduction of sugar into this country. It developed today at the treasury department that Mr. Parr last spring presented to the department a statement of these alleged frauds in which he laid claim to such an amount as the treasury might allow him for the discovery of the frauds. The claim was to be paid out of the fine imposed upon the sugar trust, which amounted to about \$2,000,000. The department has taken no action on that claim. Secretary MacVeagh was not prepared to say today whether or favorable or unfavorable action might be taken on it in the future.

It can be said on the authority of high treasury officials that practically no change has taken place in the past few weeks. The inquiries are being conducted by the department of justice with such assistance as the treasury department may give it.

James B. Reynolds, who issued a statement last night in response to the statement of deputy Surveyor Parr, said today that he had nothing additional to say. Whether the treasury department will request or direct Deputy Surveyor Parr to withhold any further statements he may have in mind could not be ascertained.

Secretary MacVeagh declined to enter into the controversy in any way and would not say, even that any intimation would be given to Mr. Parr that arguments in newspapers were distasteful to the department.



EXTENSION TO BURNSVILLE WILL BE READY IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS

Mr. Howland Pressing Forward With Weaverville Line Confident of Making Connection Ultimately with C. C. and O. Line at Galax. Capital Waiting for Investment in Western North Carolina

"The Asheville and East Tennessee railroad will be completed to Burnsville within 18 months."

So said yesterday the president of the railway company, Mr. R. S. Howland, and he accompanied this important and notably welcome announcement with the positive assurance that all necessary funds would be ready when needed.

The statement made by Mr. Howland comes from one who has carefully estimated all the difficulties which might come in the way of a railway development for which Asheville has longed for many years and is made after practical experience with that portion of the line between here and Weaverville whose success has been far greater than any one anticipated.

Money Coming Forth. Mr. Howland is very optimistic about financial conditions in this section. He said yesterday: "More money will come to the South in the next three years than

has come in all the years since the Civil war. People will be surprised at developments. The West," said Mr. Howland, "has been developed and capital is now turning to the South. In this section will be new railroads, the opening of lines to reach the great mineral beds, the establishment of manufacturing, and the utilization of the vast wealth of water power now wanting."

Mr. Howland said that he had just received a letter from a banker of Paris, France, inquiring about opportunities for investing in railroads in this section and that this letter indicated that European capital was seeking an outlet here.

Means Competing Line. The immediate matter of interest to Buncombe county in what Mr. Howland says lies, of course, in the assurance of the extension of the A. and E. T. railroad in a short time to Burnsville and then to a connection with the C. C. and O. railroad at Galax. It is needless to point out the

magnitude of the service such a road would render this county. It means not only competitive freight rates, the equivalent to saying lower freight rates, the opening up of the development of a new trade to Asheville, a short haul to the great coal fields, but a quicker route to Cincinnati, Chicago, New York, Washington, and other points. For example connection at Johnson City with the fast train of the Norfolk and Western railway will make Asheville 21 hours from New York. Cincinnati will be eight hours nearer and Chicago can be reached 12 hours earlier than now.

The sub-committee which was appointed by a recent meeting of the business men and city officials has had a conference with Mr. Howland and is at work on further data which will form the basis of the presentation to be made to the people in furtherance of the proposition to issue \$300,000 county bonds in aid of the railway construction to return for an equal amount or railway bonds.

EMPLOYEES RESPONSIBLE FOR RAILROAD ACCIDENTS

Blame for Eighty per Cent. of them Can Be Laid at Door of Railroad Men

FOLLOWED ROBBERS WIFE

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.—Negligence of railroad employees is responsible for eighty per cent of all railroad accidents, according to W. L. Park, of Omaha, Neb., general superintendent of the Union Pacific railroad who spoke before the annual meeting of the New York and New England Association of Railroad Surgeons here today.

"If we would prevent accidents on our railroads," continued Mr. Park, "we must weed out the irresponsible, shiftless and incapacitated employees. There must be a firm discipline. The unworthy workmen must go, and the labor organizations must be impressed with the idea that their mission is not to manage the railroads, but to man them."

Other speakers included President W. H. Truesdell of the Lackawanna; George W. Davis, chief engineer of the Chicago and Alton and J. D. M. Hamilton, Topeka, Kansas, counsel for the Santa Fe.

CHICAGO, Nov. 16.—John Ellsworth was arrested today charge with a \$3,000 robbery at Florence, N. J., on November 5. Detective Ellis H. Parker, of Holl N. J., followed Mrs. Ellsworth to Chicago and arrested Ellsworth in a park while he was bidding his wife and two children good bye before continuing his flight.

HUSBAND'S MAD ACT.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Following a family quarrel today James Reid of Brentwood, Md., shot and probably fatally wounded his wife, Sarah, and then put a bullet through his brain, dying instantly. Mrs. Reid was hurried to a hospital in this city. The Reids were prominently connected in Maryland.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STRIKES BECAUSE NOT EXCLUSIVE

Pastor who Tried to Make to Democratic Loses Flower of His Flock

TO RESTORE ORPHANAGE.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Following a family quarrel today James Reid of Brentwood, Md., shot and probably fatally wounded his wife, Sarah, and then put a bullet through his brain, dying instantly. Mrs. Reid was hurried to a hospital in this city. The Reids were prominently connected in Maryland.

The athletic club, the Vincens association, has met in the gymnasium in the basement of the church every Tuesday evening. It was governed by the boys themselves, though a director, Walter Rae, advised them in affairs of importance. On April 6 last the boys introduced the blackball system. By it three negative votes were enough to keep out a would-be member. The pastor, who recently came to the church, opposed the plan. He called it unchristian-like and out of harmony with the principles of the church. About a week ago he desired to get three boys into the club. But they are still in the knee-breeches age, and for that they were blackballed.

The pastor and the board of sessions promptly ordered the boys to abolish the blackball. They refused to do so and were dropped from the church organization.

On last Tuesday night they held an indignation meeting in the gymnasium and decided to leave Sunday school as a body. Twenty-two of them yesterday appeared at the church. Fourteen of the number, becoming timid, remained outside; eight bold boys marched into their rooms. After a hymn had been sung the superintendent, Arthur Demeritt, invited any organization which did not harmonize with the Sunday school to leave it. One by one the boys went out to join their comrades on the sidewalk.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Following the state department has also been obliged to make vigorous representations to the government of Roumania, which it is learned, proposed to assess a double duty of American agricultural machinery coming direct from the United States.

Just what the purpose of the Roumanian government is, in thus discriminating against American machinery is not well understood here.

REAPING WHIRLWIND OF RETALIATORY TARIFFS

Other Nations Find They too Can Build up Tarriff Wall Against Our Products

NEW EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT IN WOODHILL MURDER

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—The American Cotton oil interests are greatly perturbed over the prospect that the French parliament will enact legislation greatly increasing the duty on cotton seed oil, which is almost exclusively an American product. The American cotton oil company has taken the matter up with the state department representing that the French expert tariff commission has already recommended to the parliament that this action be taken and that the parliament seems greatly inclined to favor this course.

According to information received here the plan of the French government is to greatly increase both its maximum and minimum rates on cotton seed oil, so that should this government, through negotiations become entitled to the minimum rates the producers in this country would still be confronted with a practically prohibitive rate. In any event, the duty would be so high as to practically prevent the competition of American cotton seed oil with peanut and other similar oils largely produced in the French colonies.

In view of these representations the state department has been obliged to call the attention of the French government to this discriminatory attitude, in the expectation that the French government may reconsider its purpose.

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FIRE FRUSTRATES ATTEMPTS TO GET BODIES FROM MINE

All Hope of Rescuing Any of Entombed Miners Alive Is Abandoned

INTERIOR OF SHAFT A RAGING FURNACE

Relief of Bereaved Families Is Now Engaging Those in Authority

CHERRY, Ill., Nov. 16.—Troops were called for today to prevent any untoward demonstration at the St. Paul coal mine when the bodies of the three hundred men entombed by last Saturday's disaster, are brought to the surface. Sheriff Skoglund of Bureau county telegraphed to Springfield asking Governor Dineen to send several companies of militia. So far, there has been no violence, and it is hoped by the presence of a small guard to prevent any ill-advised move on the part of the miners, whose feelings have been wrought up by the loss of their comrades.

While the entombed men, or more likely, their bodies, will be brought to the surface is doubtful. None of the officers believe that any of the three hundred entombed men are alive, but nothing more is now actually known about their fate than was known the day of the accident.

Fire Raging in Shaft. Fire in the mine today was even more intense than it was when the men were entrapped three days ago, and no efforts could be made to enter the shaft.

Fire chief Horan of Chicago arrived today, with assistance and a supply of hose and chemical fire extinguishers. The seal over the mouth of the shaft was perforated and it was intended to force water and chemicals down through pipes. A thermometer plunged into the sand scattered on top of the seal showed a temperature of 100 degrees, indicating that the heat in the interior of the mine must have been intense.

"It is no use," said Chief Horan. "To lift the lid today would mean that the whole mine would blaze up and there would be no possibility of recovering even the bodies. The coal deposits would take fire and the timber supports would crumble."

Relief for Stricken Families. The only progress made today was in organizing relief work for the many destitute remnants of families.

In making the rounds of the miners' homes, Duncan McDonald, president of district No. 12, United Mine Workers, today discovered that eighty-six of the homes visited were with the exception of small children, without males.

Only the most frantic of the women who lost husbands ventured to visit the shaft today, and these had to be almost forcibly taken back. Frequently a puff of smoke issued from a crevice in the cover over the shaft. This was taken as evidence of the fire raging within. It was cold enough outside, an icy wind sweeping over the prairie and whistling mournfully through the superstructure of the mine.

Funerals of eight of the miners who were killed Saturday were held today. Two of these died while engaged in rescue work. Several of the miners on duty at the shaft left their work to follow the processions to the cemetery.

(Continued on page four.)

NEW EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT IN WOODHILL MURDER

Letter to Coroner From Chicago Declares "Lame Bob" Did Not Kill Girl

TO RESTORE ORPHANAGE.

EASTON, Md., Nov. 16.—A clue to the actual circumstances of the killing of pretty Mrs. Edith May Thompson Woodhill at St. Michaels on June 19, which was attributed by many to Robert Emmett Eastman, who committed suicide, may have come to light. Foreman Willey of the coroner's jury, in sorting old papers, found an unopened envelope addressed to "Mr. Radcliffe, Undertaker." It contained an unsigned letter dated and postmarked at Chicago, June 29, the envelope bearing the card of the Saratoga Hotel Restaurant company of Chicago.

"Bob did not kill the girl," the letter reads, "but it was as he says. She was killed by the other girl in the party. She was not murdered, but it was the result of a fight. The girl who used the bottle had no idea that the girl would die. She is now prostrate in a hospital. She did not die at once, and was alive but unconscious when Bob took her from our boat to his house. It was not a murder, but an unfortunate accident. The girl who struck the blow does not even know that she was in the fight."

Detectives have been detailed to look for the mysterious writer.

