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THE RICHMOND TERMINAL

Millions Subscribed to the New Syndicate Completing the Details of the Reorganization Scheme.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

PROPER PARTS OF THE POST OFFICE SYSTEM.

A Strong and Logical Argument for the Adoption of These Agencies by the Government.

Hon. Walter Clark, L. L. D., in "The Arena."

In framing the Federal Constitution it was wisely provided that "Congress should have power to establish post offices and post roads." Const. U. S. Art. I, Sec. 8. This has always been interpreted as not only conferring the power, but imposing the duty of establishing and maintaining an adequate and efficient postal service for the country, and to this end adopting the means which would be most economical.

It is believed that there will not be much news in the committee's report when it is made public, members of the committee admitting that the outline already published was substantially correct, as well as the values to be placed on the different classes of securities.

To underwrite the new securities to be issued under the plan proposed by the committee, a syndicate has been, or is being, formed, which will represent \$35,000,000.

According to persons interested, nearly all the money necessary has been subscribed for the purpose.

At the time for the appointment of the committee, with Mr. O'leary as chairman, a syndicate

representing \$6,000,000 was formed to take care of the then outstanding loans of the Richmond Terminal Company.

None of these things were dreamed of by the farmers of the Constitution.

They were details wisely left to be worked out by the progress and intelligence of succeeding generations.

When our Post Office was first inaugurated, mails were carried on horseback, or, in a few instances, by mail coaches.

When steam was introduced, the Post Office promptly availed itself of the new agency.

In fact, every appliance and every improvement to facilitate the social and business intercourse of the public has been laid hands on,

and been made subservient to that

purpose save one. Why the department has been forced to stand still in the presence of the agency which is most especially adapted for that purpose, and, after having availed itself of the potent energies of steam, has refrained from the use of the more potent agency of electricity, is well known to all men.

The telegraph and the telephone are the Post of the rapidly

advancing and near at hand

Twentieth century; and it may be well to consider why the Post Office Department has not adopted them, and why it should do so.

It has not failed to adopt them because it is unconstitutional to do so. That is too plain for argument.

It would be easy to fill pages with citations of legal authorities showing its constitutionality.

Indeed, it could be better said, that it is unconstitutional for the government not to adopt them for the purpose of giving the people the best and cheapest and speediest postal facilities which the most improved methods known to science can afford.

The clause of the Constitution is understood to be mandatory upon the national government to establish and maintain a proper postal service, since, in the face of that provision, neither States nor private companies can do so.

The labor organizations all over the country met for the sole purpose of bettering the condition of the laboring class, and in that convention this, and this alone, was the theme discussed.

Politics nor third party were never mentioned.

After the convention adjourned a mass meeting was held and everybody who felt disposed to take part was at liberty to do so.

At that meeting the platform of the People's party was discussed, and it being so well adapted to the wants of the laboring class, it met the approval of a large majority of the delegates and citizens present.

And now it is understood by all knowing allienem everywhere that the Third or People's party is not the creation of the Farmers' Alliance any more than it is of the many other organizations, but it is the People's party. Therefore this leaves the members of the Farmers' Alliance to set upon their own judgment.

If, when the time comes to vote, the People's party holds out the greatest inducements to the largest number of people he is free to act with that party.

If, on the other hand, the old party with which he has affiliated can give the relief so much needed, he is at liberty to act with that party.

Belief! Relief! is what our people want, and they will not be satisfied until it is obtained.

R. A. CORN.

On What a Cough.

Will you heed the warning.

The signal perhaps of the approach of that more terrible disease Consumption. Ask yourself if you can afford for sake of saving 50c., to run risk and do nothing for it.

I know from experience that Shiloh's Cure will cure your cough. It never fails. This explains why more than a million bottles were sold the past year. It relieves croup and whooping cough at once. Mothers, do not be without it. For lame back, side or chest use Shiloh's porous plaster. Sold by John Tull.

A. L. SINK, who was so badly

hurt while on his bridal trip, at the Boston bridge wreck near Statesville, has brought suit

against the Richmond & Danville Railroad Company for \$50,000,

and his wife, who was also hurt at the same time, having her face badly cut up, which disfigures her very much, has brought suit for \$25,000, says the State Chronicle.

The suits are brought in Davidson county. Mr. Sink was out riding the other day for the first time since he was hurt.

...Judson College, at Hendersonville, long the college of the Western N. C. Baptists, was sold at auction on Monday of last week to Jesse R. Starnes, of Asheville, for \$8,166—one dollar more than the amount of the mortgage. The faculty, with Dr. R. H. Lewis, president, will remain in charge until June, when Prof. H. J. Greenwell will take charge, says the Asheville Citizen. The college has, until now, been in the control of the Western Baptist convention. It is worth \$16,000 or \$20,000, and efforts have been made to raise the mortgage and retain the college in the convention's control, with success.

...Each season has its own peculiar malady, but with the blood maintained in a state of uniform vigor and purity by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla little danger need be feared from meteorological influences. No other blood medicine is so safe and effective.

...The Richmond Terminal

at two cents, and around the world for five cents. The last postmaster-general's report states that while, owing to the cost of heavy packages and matter carried free, there is a deficiency in the Post Office, yet on the carriage of letters there is a net revenue annually of \$16,000,000. Why, then, is it chimerical to say that messages sent by wire, at the cost of a few cheap chemicals and with no freight to be paid, would not pay a profit at five cents per message of ten words?

It may be noted that the telephone patent expires next March. Now is the time for Congress to adopt it for the Post Office, and establish a telephone at every country post office. The advantages to the rural population would be manifold. Physicians could be summoned promptly for the sick. Witnesses and others summoned to court could be notified what day or hour to attend, and be saved useless hours hanging around the county court house. A telephone message to the nearest railway station would ascertain whether expected freight had come, and the farmer would be saved a needless trip of his wagon over bad roads. News of approaching frosts could be promptly distributed through the country districts, and many a valuable crop saved. These may seem humdrum purposes to dwellers in cities, but they will deprive country life of some of its drawbacks, and be a boon to a portion of our population who claim that they bear their full share of the burdens of government and receive less than their share of its benefits. It comes, too, at a time when they are disposed to assert and maintain their right to be better considered in a distribution of the advantages of governmental favor. For this service, it might well be provided that for telephonic messages within the county or for a distance less than fifty miles, the charge would be only two (2) cents. A system similar to this now prevails in Austria and some of the countries. The postmaster could very easily keep his accounts, either by the use of stamps or by a nickel-in-the-slot attachment to the instrument. If the telephone is not now adopted by government, some gigantic corporation, some vast syndicate, will be sure to utilize it; and when hereafter government shall be forced to take it up for the public service, Congress will be compelled almost immediately to fix a uniform rate.

This will not prevent railroads from having their own telephones for their own business, nor forbid telephone exchanges in cities and towns. As now persons and corporations can send their own messages by their own messengers, so they can send telegrams and telephone messages on their own business by their own wires. The postmaster will extend, as is now the case, only to the sending of mail or messages for others.

The public demand in this direction for adoption of these, the cheapest and speediest means of intercommunication by the government, is beyond question. It can be ascertained by construction in any gathering where the subject is discussed. The Farmers' Alliance has adopted the measure as one of its demands.

The Board of Trade of New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and numerous other cities have petitioned for it. The vast majority of the press, the Legislature, the public, and the publicans who have taken sides, have favored it. A majority of the South, the South is passing the authority of her slaves, the fertility of her soil, the extent of her natural resources, and her fitness for the support of a large population.

As far as I am concerned, so much demanded by the public and demanded by the wants of the age, has a powerful opponent, though indeed the publicans who have taken sides, have favored it. A majority of the South, the South is passing the authority of her slaves, the fertility of her soil, the extent of her natural resources, and her fitness for the support of a large population.

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The use of the telephone would deprive of validity the only arguments of any weight which have ever been used against the adoption of the telegraph by the Post Office. These arguments are—

1. That the telegraph would be used by 5,000,000 of people, and the other 52,000,000 would have to pay for it. Aside from the fact that the telegraph here, as in England and elsewhere, when used by the Post Office, and placed at a moderate uniform rate, would pay a profit, we have the additional fact that by the adoption of the telephone at country post offices, the rural masses would be users of the new agency of intercommunication as well as the business-men of the cities.

2. It is urged that the number of employees of the government would be vastly increased. This argument, too, loses any force, if it has any, by the addition of the telephone. For all distances under 100 miles, the telephone can be employed, and the present postmasters can of course use them. A few telegraphic centres—one or two for each State,—could be established, to which all long-distance messages would be sent, to be there despatched by telegraph. At these centres would be a staff, more or less large, of operators, but the civil-service rules would apply, as they already do, to the same post offices.

The annual increase in the number of postmasters and post-office employees, by the year of the increased service, is from 2,000 to 3,000. For the reasons above given, it may be well, therefore, to examine some of the reasons which impeded that gigantic corporation to put forth efforts so powerful, that up to the present time it has thwarted the popular will and defied the progressive spirit of the times. The capital stock of that company in 1875 was \$333,000. It declared stock dividends between \$87 and \$108—eight years of \$20 per cent, and added only \$6,000 for new lines, making an average July 1, 1886, \$302,000, one tenth of which was wages. One year from that date it easily doubled its capital by making \$60,000. The largest division up to \$172 in any one year was \$42 per cent. For a period of seven years, its dividends averaged one per cent a year on its average capital. At one time it distributed \$60,000 of stock to its shareholders, and with such rapid growth, as ought to be expected, so much improved its organization by making \$60,000. The largest division up to \$172 in any one year was \$42 per cent. For a period of seven years, its dividends averaged one per cent a year on its average capital. At one time it distributed \$60,000 of stock to its shareholders, and with such rapid growth, as ought to be expected, so much improved its organization by making \$60,000.

The argument as to the expense of delivering messages would also be destroyed by the use of telephones, since, in country districts the message would simply go to the post office, and in towns and their suburbs the universal use of private telephones, which will come into general use on the expiration of the telephone patent, would make it easy to deliver messages; besides, government could and would have numerous telephone sub-post offices in every place of size.

The "Western Union" and its champions always ardently opposed the adoption of the telegraph, with its ownership of railroads. This is to a great extent of the strong opposition, and the forceful reasons which can be given, against the latter measure. But the two measures have nothing whatever in common. The telegraph is a means of communication, and the railroad is a means of transportation. The telegraph, by absence of any motive power, divided human and animal in atmosphere, while the railroad, by the use of motive power, uniting human and animal in atmosphere.

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not be equally valid against the administration of the Post Office itself by the government. Yet we may well believe that if the mail were handled by the same monolithic Post Office, yet on the carriage of letters there is a net revenue annually of \$16,000,000. Why, then, is it chimerical to say that messages sent by wire, at the cost of a few cheap chemicals and with no freight to be paid, would not pay a profit at five cents per message?

Whatever the demerits or merits of the cry raised in some quarters for government ownership of railroads, it has no connection with this matter.

As has been well said, "Not all the municipalities, the telegraph systems of this country, substantially owned and controlled by one man, is the worst and most dangerous of them all. It is no longer safe

to expand to intent into the hands of one encompassing monopoly the telegraph business of this country. It is a power, that only can be used, but has been perverted, for purposes hostile to the best interests of the people.

The Monroe & Danielson Interests, the largest and most important of the railroads in the South, are now controlled by one man, Mr. Danielson, and his commercial interests are no longer, without competition, in the hands of a stock-jobbing concern.