

WEDDED BY THE TELEPHONE

Romantic Marriage Over a Long Distance Wire.

TRAVELLED MANY MILES FOR A KISS

Bridegroom Built the Telephone Line and That's Where the Romance Comes In—There Were Two Ministers, a Best Man, and a Bridesmaid at the Ends of the Wire.

Humansville, Mo., Feb. 4. Wedded by telephone. This is the latest, up-to-date manner in which Cupid and the church unite two fond hearts. The story is romantic, poetical, and yet practical. Combinations that do not usually go together, making the story all the more interesting. The bridegroom, Judson Franklin Hull, is a Sunday-school superintendent and a telephonist, well known in this section. His bride, a pretty school teacher of Humansville, is the daughter of a prominent citizen, her name previous to changing it to Hull having been Flora Tinker.

The brief life history of the bridegroom is that since his graduation from the Western College in Iowa in '94 he has made a study of electricity and a success of the business of constructing telephones. Miss Tinker graduates from the Humansville High School in '94 and became teacher in the same school. But this story is about the telephone wedding.

Why a wedding by telephone? Because the bridegroom had become wedded first to his business, by which he had been enabled to make a home for his pretty bride-to-be, and he wanted to wed his love for the electrical profession firmer by using it as a means of uniting him in marriage to the girl of his choice. Neither sought notoriety. Miss Tinker was too sensible a girl to quarrel with her future husband's novel idea, and so she entered into the spirit of the thing.

LEGALIZING THE WEDDING. First, the advice of a lawyer was sought. He decided that the only way to make such a marriage legal would be for a trust of receivers and transmitters to be used on each end, so that the marriage service could be read and responded to in the hearing of two officiating clergymen and two witnesses.

THE BRIDEGROOM'S OWN STORY. It had been agreed that I should be married to my wife in Boliver, she staying in Humansville, so I said goodbye to her on the evening preceding the ceremony, and took the train for Boliver. I was met at Boliver by J. McKee, who took us to the Recorder's office, where we secured a license. Then we hunted up a minister, and found one who was willing to perform a marriage service in the telephone.

Next morning, on the wedding day, I dressed in my best clothes, and met the wedding party at the telephone station. I called up the telephone office at Humansville, and heard Flora's voice answer "hello." It was an odd wedding morning, day greeting. I asked her how she was, and she answered "perfectly well and very happy."

NO TIME TO TALK. But I wanted the ceremony to begin, and so I cut in on their conversation, when I could do so without risk of offending them, and asked them to begin the marriage service. At our three receivers and transmitters were the minister, my best man, and myself. As he was at Flora's end she shall tell herself. It was twenty-five miles away, and I could not be expected to see so far as that.

THE SOLEMN QUESTIONS WERE READ BY THE ministers at both ends, declared us man and wife, and the wires were felt that it was a serious contract, although conducted in such an unusual way. I fancied I caught a quiver in Flora's voice as she answered at her end, and once there was a suspicion of a sob, but perhaps the wires were to blame, for she declares that she felt too happy to do anything but laugh.

JUDSON FRANKLIN HULL. THE BRIDE'S STORY. I was so proud of my husband, before he was my husband, and so much wrapped up in his work that I readily agreed when he proposed that he should be married by the telephone. As I may as well confess now that I had serious misgivings as to the ceremony being possible of performance in that way, but everything was a perfect success. After Judson had left me and gone twenty-five miles away I felt somewhat like a girl who had been deserted by her sweetheart on the eve of marriage. But I had too much to do to think about it.

First I called on my friend, Miss Minnie Cressap, and told her that I wanted her to act as my bridesmaid. She consented at once, and we arranged to meet at the Humansville telephone office on the following morning. Then I called on the pastor who was to be at my end of the wire, so that there should be no possibility of a misunderstanding. He was the Rev. W. F. Yeager, of the First M. E. church.

ger, of the First M. E. church. The next morning the pastor and my bridesmaid drove to the telephone office in a closed carriage. The neighbors had heard of the telephone marriage, and the windows of the houses leading to the office were filled with heads to see us drive up.

When I got to the telephone, Mr. Yeager placed a chair for me opposite one of the three receivers that had been placed together in the office and I sat down to be married. It was all very funny, and I felt a little queer, although as happy as a bird.

When, however, I heard my future husband's voice at the other end of the telephone, twenty-five miles away, asking me how I was, I recovered at once, and felt it was the brightest jolliest way of getting married possible. We each had receivers, as well as transmitters, six of us, and we sat like a family party, hearing all that was going on at both ends of the line as plainly as though we were in one room. I answered the questions at my end, and Judson answered at his, and the ministers read the service in clear voices, and so the knot was tied hard and fast. Twenty-five miles seemed a long distance to be separated from one's husband when we had only been married a minute, but I knew he would come to me as quickly as the train could bring him. We waited in the telephone office until he burst in, and first to kiss me. He had the ring with him, and the ring and the kiss were all that we needed to make the marriage ceremony as complete and satisfactory as though it had been performed in a cathedral with a choir of fine singers in attendance.

True Stories of Blackmail—Abuses of State Supervision.

N. Y. Evening Post. The present agitation respecting the advantages of national supervision of insurance has brought to light many abuses of State control and cases where blackmail has been exacted from insurance men of this city. Some officers discuss their experiences willingly, provided their names are withheld, others allude to them guardedly, and still others (concerning a recent matter of local interest prefer to "await developments. Life companies as a rule, suffer most from legislative blackmail, and hurried conferences of officials in this city often follow the introduction of a bill at the West, or press reports that "joint investigations" are thought of.

A well-known officer was called to the capital city of an adjoining State not long ago in consultation with counsel over a bill pending in the legislature. The measure had attracted general attention, as affected a large class of policy-holders, and every one was discussing it. Soon after his arrival a politician accosted him with the remark, "How foolish you are to fight this thing. It can be arranged." About \$50,000 will do it. Asked for particulars, he said that he had been called to the capital city of an adjoining State not long ago in consultation with counsel over a bill pending in the legislature. The measure had attracted general attention, as affected a large class of policy-holders, and every one was discussing it.

A Western Superintendent of insurance commissioned an examining committee to inspect the books of three companies in the same city. His credentials were correct, so the companies reluctantly consented to the ordeal. Before beginning work, however, pamphlet statements prepared for another inquiry followed. They were signed by him with the suggestion: "You don't want anything better than those?" He did not. Hundred-dollar bills had been placed between the leaves. No "examination" was held.

Others have been vouched for by well-known officers of this city. One of them said: "Our position is a difficult one. Commissioners have endless opportunities for annoying us, laws of most States giving them practically autocratic powers. Of course, bills are frequently attempted, with success. There are more than forty State Commissioners, among whom are sure to be politicians of a low type, whose chief pretense seem to be, 'How much is this officer worth to me?' Some of them are very ready to report for others longer. Their demands usually increase with their length of service, some doubtless regretting after they are out how much they really missed."

New York companies are known to be very ready to accept of the proposed structures they appeal new commissioners. All we can do in case of examinations for these men is to ask an honest superintendent to join with them in making investigations. That protects us somewhat. The troublesome department are those of states presided over by corrupt executives. They probably divide the booty with the commissioners, who, of course, are creatures of their own appointment.

A lawyer engaged frequently in insurance litigation said: "When the boss system was extended over the whole legislature, officers in this city were delighted. Contributions for 'campaign purposes' could then be made to one man direct instead of the half a dozen. Certain bills reappear in the legislature each year designed of course, as 'strikes.' Something is probably done; what it is I do not know."

An officer familiar with the case of local interest referred to above, said: "Our story is an interesting one, but we cannot tell it just yet. One class of corporations more influential than another can 'pull wires' to suit themselves. A recent case that I know about proves this to be true. Complications at the West, a short time ago resulted in an appeal to the courts of the arbitrary act of State commissioner. The courts sided with the companies, restrained the Commissioner, but what was gained? Within a few days he discovered something else that was wrong with their business, and disturbed them again, putting them to much trouble. All they could do was to comply or endanger the capital invested. Letters of New York companies contain some interesting communications from insurance Commissioners. Some of these may eventually be given publicity; that is, if we are forced to it. The advantages of national supervision cannot be overestimated."

The several organizations of railroad employees in Kentucky have made a joint protest against the bill passed by the State Senate giving the Railroad Commission power to fix rates. They regard it as inimical to their interests, and have sent a committee to Frankfort to urge the House to reject the measure.

THE ROUND COTTON BALE.

Atlanta Journal. Inventors Think It Will Revolutionize the Cotton Industry in This Country.

General Stephen M. Wells, President of the Planters' Compress company, of Boston, exhibited the round cotton bale made by that company's press to a number of cotton merchants and mill men in the sample room of Sanders, Swann & Co. today at noon, and those present were impressed with the idea that the invention is of great importance and is destined to work a great revolution in the methods of marketing the cotton crop.

Although he had never seen a cotton bale or a cotton field, he set to work to solve the problem and succeeded so well that a \$5,000,000 company has been organized to manufacture and introduce the press.

The bale which is produced by this process is compressed at the gin with a force that costs \$500 and requires only six horse power in addition to that which is required to run the gin. When the work is done there is a round bale 18 inches in diameter, 42 inches high and weighing 250 pounds. Its density is 44 pounds to the cubic foot, as against 22 1/2 pounds to the cubic foot in type of bale turned out by the present day.

The bale is encased in cotton duck weighing a pound and a half, and bound with wire weighing half a pound. This gives a tare of only two pounds, as against 25 pounds on the ordinary 500 pound bale of cotton, saving factories \$1 to \$1.50 per bale, and will create a demand for 40,000,000 yards of cotton duck on a 10,000,000 bale crop, consuming 60,000 bales of the present size.

The promoters of this process say that its most important advantage is in the facility and independence it will give the farmer in handling his crop. Altogether, it is claimed that the saving to all parties will be \$3 to \$4 a bale.

The cost of covering the bale is 22 cents, or an equivalent of 44 cents for bales of the present size, which cost 80 cents to cover. The company offers 11 cents for the duck and wires after they have been used once, and on two bales by the same farmer, the saving is 22 cents, or an equivalent of 44 cents for bales of the present size, which cost 80 cents to cover.

General Wells proposes to organize branch companies in each State with local capital, very much as the Bell Telephone company has organized local concerns, but with a larger proportion of local capital. It is proposed to have the press ready for the next crop.

Ten Per Cent Dividend.

Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 5.—The report of Receivers Carpenter and Conner, of the Southern Building and Loan Association, to the Chancery Court, in which it is shown that \$150,000 is on hand and a dividend of 10 per cent recommended has caused much better feeling among holders of building and loan stock in this section. The Southern was the largest of Knoxville's associations, and in fact second to none in the South. It did business in twenty-one States. A year ago a panic among the associations here took place, being precipitated by an opinion of the Supreme Court to the effect that their loans were usurious.

Every one of the eight associations went into receivers' hands. The Southern was the largest of all. Its affairs have been in almost constant litigation, and are only beginning to be straightened out. The principal difficulty was caused by the receivership being under a State court. In several other States receivers were also appointed. They are all working in harmony now, however, and are beginning to be stigmatized as receivers it is shown that the amount of deposits of all classes of investment stocks is \$1,985,879.47. Those filed with receivers in Tennessee are slightly in excess of \$1,600,000.

A Man of One Book.

Few men could be said to be a man of one book like Spurgeon. The Bible was the centre of his thought and heart, yet it was said that he read on the average of two new books each day, or at least he was doing so for many years, doing a vast amount of preaching, writing and other work. Few people think Mr. Moody reads much, but the walls of his large library are covered with crowded book shelves. He keeps up with the times and makes a point to see a first class newspaper every day but Sunday. Such men never forget the times in which they live, and that other men know something worth learning.

A reformer in the Ohio House has introduced a bill requiring persons applying for licenses to marry to pass a medical examination, forbidding the issuance of a license to persons having dipsomania, any form of insanity or hereditary tuberculosis, and providing for an examination and board of three physicians in each county.

A resolution in the shape of a constitutional amendment, offered in the Massachusetts House, provides that no legislation affecting any single city of the State should be effective until approved by a two-thirds vote of the Council of the city interested. Another resolution for a constitutional amendment would divide the State into thirty representative districts-at-large, each of those districts into eight sub-districts, each sub-district to nominate candidates, and each voter in each district-at-large to have the privilege of voting for five candidates; in like manner there would be eight Senatorial districts-at-large, and five sub-districts in each, the voter to vote for three out of five candidates. A bill for supervision of telephone companies as to rates, etc., is pending, as also a bill for the reduction of wages by a corporation while it is able to pay a five per cent dividend.

IN THE STATE LEGISLATURES.

Among the curiosities of suggested legislation is a bill introduced in the Ohio Senate to forbid railroad companies from engaging in coal mining. A bill similar to the anti-flirting bill rejected by the Virginia Senate has been passed by the House. It forbids loitering near schools by young men for girls.

Advocates for woman suffrage, before a committee of the Massachusetts Legislature, were followed by several women well-known in the State, who spoke in opposition. The House has concurred with the Senate in ordering an inquiry into the cotton industry. The Kentucky Senate has passed a bill requiring mixed flour to be branded. The House has rejected a constitutional amendment to exempt from taxation the property of women while they are not permitted to vote.

The resolution referring the matter of the assessment of railroad, telegraph and telephone companies in Tennessee to the Board of Equalizers, the Railroad Commission, and the Attorney-General for compromise or settlement has been approved by the Tennessee House.

The South Carolina Senate has approved a wire-tire bill. The bill increasing the penalty for carrying weapons has been rejected by the Senate. A favorable report has been made on the resolution to refer the question of control of the liquor traffic to the people at the next general election. The Virginia House has passed a bill to create a board of appraisers, with power to assess the value of a telephone and telegraph companies. It is a copy of the Ohio law on the same subject, and provides heavy penalties for a failure of the agents of such companies to make annual returns.

"Ah," said the great editor, rubbing his palms, "things are at last almost as they should be, and I hope before many weeks have passed to have my staff of experts perfected. I now have political events reported by politicians, prize fights by sluggers, society events by social leaders, and murder trials by murderers. The paper, as you see, is illustrated by artists who have received their art education at Sing Sing. But I must now bestir myself to have a negro who has been lynched, rescued in the nick of time and resuscitated and I'll give him a job reporting all lynchings of the Ohio law on the same subject, and provides heavy penalties for a failure of the agents of such companies to make annual returns.

Still chucking to himself, he rang a bell and when the chief of the assassination department entered he ordered him to secure the services of a lynched negro at once, even if he had to lynch him himself.

"You know," he said sternly, "that the motto of our paper is, 'While other reporter crimes, we commit them.'—Puck.

Their Nicknames.

Some children that I know possess. Of nicknames half a score: One is "Theo"—"Teddy"—"Ted," "Through christened." The next is scarcely called a right. By any haps or chances—'Tis "Fanny"—"Frankie"—"Frank" and "and Fan." Though her real name is ——— Then "Larry"—"Laurie"—"Lanty" comes. (Though he always writes it ———) And his sister twin, whom most address As "Flo" or "Floy" for ——— The last is "Lizzie"—"Betty"—"Bess," "Bettina"—and "Elspeeth"—"Maisy"—"List"—"Beth"—"Bet"—"Lib." And she's ——— St. Nicholas.

The main reason ascribed for the failure of the Cob Pipe Company, of Kansas, is the decrease in the demand for corn-cob pipes. The farmers of the Garden of the West are in such good condition financially that they have discarded pipes and are now smoking cigars.

Don't join a "Don't Worry" club. Don't try not to worry. While contentment is a pleasing virtue, the people you know who are contented would be better off if they worried more. Absolute contentment and indifference to the possible troubles of to-morrow will land any one in the poor-house. The cow doesn't worry, neither does the clam, but people are built to worry, and it is intended that they should. On the other hand, if you worry much it will land you in the insane asylum. It is the insane asylum on the one hand and the poor house on the other; the point is to worry just enough to keep out of both of them.—Atchison Globe.

The woman of Seattle, Wash., have instituted a Society of Klondike Widows. The lists are exclusive, being restricted to those whose claims to "Klondike widowhood" are indisputable. Only the wives and sweethearts of men off to the gold fields are eligible and no others need apply.

Zion's Watchmen Cry From Dress Towers From the Ram's Horn. Whispers and runaway teams make the break-ups. Pleasure soon palls when it costs nothing. A haggard camel may bear a smooth burden. Purity opens the way to a world of gladness. Friendship may soon be die, but enemy never. A truthful child is mother's crown of glory. All men are fools, but only the wise stop being so. Knowledge puffs up. Wisdom lets the wind out. When you have nothing to do never go after help. The devil never has to waste any bait to catch a loafer. He who robs under the shelter of the law is the most daring and cowardly thief of the day. The temperance cause will go on crying until the church closets are cleared of jugs. Duty and responsibility were married in the Garden of Eden.



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H. D. BLAKE & CO., General Agents, RALEIGH, N. C. City House and Lot For Sale. By virtue of authority conferred by a certain Deed of Trust from Anderson Betts and wife to Ernest Haywood, registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Wake County, N. C., in Book 125, page 17, I will on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 1898, sell at public auction on the South side of Lane street, in the North-western portion of the City of Raleigh, N. C., on a lot of four-room dwelling, a two-story kitchen, a wood house and a well, and is described as follows: Bounded by a line beginning at a stake on the South side of Lane street, in the Northwest corner of said city, said stake being the City Johnson Northwest corner; run thence West along the South side of Lane street to the McCuller's lot; thence South along the McCuller's lot to the J. M. Betts line; thence East along the J. M. Betts line to the City Johnson line; thence North along the Johnson line to the beginning, containing about one-seventh (1/7) of an acre. Time of sale 12 o'clock, m. Place of sale, county court house door, Raleigh, N. C. ERNEST HAYWOOD, Trustee. January 7th, 1898. j8-14d